



The Time Is **NOW**



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Jana Bala Satana

Introduction

Sri Lanka is in the midst of a transformative journey, bridging its rich cultural past with a vision for a modern future. The country is moving away from its Agricultural foundations and making strides in more contemporary sectors like Manufacturing and Services.

Infrastructure development is being boosted through Renewable Energy projects and Port expansions, and Sri Lanka's diverse trade portfolio is a testament to its evolving economy.

Education and Technology are also on the rise. Through partnerships with esteemed Educational Institutions and a focus on nurturing tech startups, Sri Lanka is laying the groundwork for a future-ready workforce. This aligns with its broader aspirations of consistent growth and innovation.

However, this does not alter the reality that there are numerous underlying issues we must confront. While the Government has set ambitious goals for renewable energy, the execution needs to be expedited to meet the 2030 target. Sustainable and organic agricultural practices, though a step in the right direction, must be scaled up to make a substantial impact. The entrance into medical tourism is promising but will require strategic investment and planning to compete on a global stage.

The biggest challenge lies in striking a balance between economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion. What the people of Sri Lanka want is a stable Government with the correct policies to take the country forward. This is something that previous Governments were unable to implement due to the envisioned policies being seen as '*unpopular with the people*'. Achieving this equilibrium will necessitate vigilant economic policies and a more comprehensive approach to development.

In essence, Sri Lanka's journey is a masterpiece, with each chapter weaving together innovation, tradition, ambition, and responsibility. The evolving development portrays a nation on the cusp of reaching its potential, driven by determination and grace. This leads us to a crucial point – a manifesto outlining the nation's future blueprint.

Jana Bala Satana

Pioneering Transformation for a Stronger Nation

At **Jana Bala Satana**, we are at the forefront of driving transformative change, grounded in our vision for a thriving, prosperous Sri Lanka. We firmly believe that the path to progress lies in entrusting the Governance of our nation to professionals who possess the expertise and commitment to navigate complex challenges effectively. Our mission is crystal clear - to usher in an era of governance that places the nation's interests at the forefront, steering us towards a brighter future.

Our Approach

To successfully navigate the challenges of the modern world, competent and efficient leaders are crucial. "**Jana Bala Satana**" is strengthened by candidates carefully selected from various professional backgrounds such as law, medicine, engineering, and human development, moving away from traditional political patterns. This diversity of expertise will be instrumental in creating good governance that addresses all sectors of the country.

Empowering Parliament

We aim to improve the quality of discussions and decision-making in parliament. Our candidates are not just experts in their respective fields, but they also understand the finer points of Legislative Procedures. This specialized knowledge enables them to contribute effectively to informed, progressive decision-making.

Our Vision for Raising Livelihoods and Creating Jobs

To cope with the current global economic difficulties, financially strong citizens are essential. Creating quality jobs with high wages and developing a well-rounded and satisfied workforce with relevant skills is imperative. Our primary goal is to create numerous jobs that will advance Sri Lankan youth and prosper the entire society by encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship. We believe that the skills and knowledge possessed by our citizens are powerful assets that can significantly contribute to the overall progress of the country.

In conclusion, under the banner of "**Jana Bala Satana**" we are committed to pioneering transformative change, empowering our parliament, and fostering economic growth and job creation to build a stronger and more prosperous Sri Lanka.



Enhancing National Security



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Enhancing National Security

In a rapidly changing world, a Nation's Security is paramount. At the core of our approach is the objective to not just protect but to also innovate how we maintain the safety and integrity of Sri Lanka. To better equip Sri Lanka against modern challenges, we suggest the following steps aimed at fortifying our National Security measures to be Resilient, Proactive, and Technologically advanced.

- Implement a Law to shield intelligence officers from political meddling, recognizing them as professionals.
- Attract top talent with competitive salaries.
- Create a Specialized Unit focused on fighting drug-related crime, preventing Sri Lanka from becoming a hotspot for global illegal drug trafficking.
- Upgrade the Police force with digital biometric technology for more efficient and secure operations.



Amplifying the Role of Parliament: Enhancing its Impact and Influence



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Amplifying the Role of Parliament: Enhancing its Impact and Influence

The role of the Parliament is paramount for Governance and Public Policy. Sri Lanka's Parliament has the potential to be a powerful agent for change, setting the stage for a more Transparent, Accountable, and Effective Administration if it chooses it to be. To fully realize this potential, several key improvements are proposed, each aimed at enhancing the Parliament's impact on national progress.

- Form independent multi-disciplinary advisory councils comprised of experts for the President, Prime Minister, and each Ministry to promote evidence-based decision-making. Economists, for example, would play a significant role in the country's Economic Policies.
- Decrease the reliance of Local and Provincial Councils on the Central Government's budget. Also, streamline the Government by reducing the number of representatives in Local Councils, Provincial Councils, and Parliament.
- Tackle the urgent need to update Ministerial salaries, which have not changed in 18 years, by introducing a new pay structure. This overhaul would not only make the system less prone to Corruption but also improve the performance of Ministers. A Merit-based reward system would further encourage dedication to the country's well-being.
- Introduce a section in the Constitution for the creation of an elected assembly. This assembly will draft a people-centric interim Constitution to replace the archaic one. After public awareness campaigns, its adoption will then be decided through a referendum.
- Implement the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution. This move aims to address longstanding ethnic and regional tensions by promoting National Unity and Balanced Development.
- Introduce Legislation to implement new taxes such as a Wealth Tax and employ Blockchain Technology to digitalize all property records.



Advancing Judicial Efficiency and Integrity



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Advancing Judicial Efficiency and Integrity

In the heart of a functioning democracy lies an efficient and credible justice system. Our commitment is unwavering when it comes to enhancing the timeliness and fairness of our judiciary. Here are the pivotal changes we plan to initiate:

Case Backlog Mitigation

- Address the case backlog with urgency. Delays caused by issues such as understaffing will be tackled head-on.
- Amplify recruitment drives and provide intensive training for judicial staff to better manage the existing workload.

Transparency and Integrity Measures

- Expedite the passage of anti-corruption bills to bolster transparency and ensure that the judiciary remains untainted by misconduct.
- Continuous audits and reviews to maintain a clean slate and reinforce public trust.

Embracing Technological Solutions

- Initiate pilot projects introducing e-governance in court systems.
- Streamline processes with online methods for administrative tasks and procurement, reducing paperwork and expediting resolutions.



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TO THE POLLING STATION

Revamping Elections: A New Era of Democratic Engagement



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Revamping Elections: A New Era of Democratic Engagement

Elections serve as the cornerstone of a healthy Democracy, reflecting the collective voice of the citizenry. It is crucial to streamline this process for both Transparency and Effectiveness. Here is our refined approach;

Efficient Electoral Process

We aim to announce election results before midnight to optimize the Election Commission's expenditure, time, and energy. Moreover, we propose discouraging the registration of dubious political parties, which reduces the ballot paper sizes and general confusion among voters.

Abolish Proportional Representation

We propose to eliminate the existing proportional representation system. This change will create a more straightforward Electoral process, increasing the chances for Honest and Committed candidates to win seats in the Parliament.

Conducting fair elections using new technology

In an increasingly digital world, it is imperative to integrate Modern Technology into our Electoral procedures. From advanced voter registration methods to secure Digital polling, we envision an election process that is both highly accessible and impeccably secure.

- Strict regulations on disclosure of advertising expenditure should be enforced. Disclosure of expenses of all political parties should be made mandatory to prevent corruption and undue influence in the election process.
- Free and fair media coverage of elections should be ensured. We emphasize that all political parties should have equal opportunity to media platforms and reporting of election news etc. should be impartial and fair.
- We see the need to review and update the election laws in line with global practices and set standards. If there are any shortcomings or weaknesses in the existing electoral system, legal reforms must be implemented to solve them.
- We will ensure that any allegations of misconduct or irregularities are promptly and transparently investigated and addressed by establishing the necessary mechanisms for post-election accountability.



Addressing Corruption in Sri Lanka: A Comprehensive Plan



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Addressing Corruption in Sri Lanka: A Comprehensive Plan

Corruption has long plagued Sri Lanka, with vast sums being illicitly transferred out and public finances mismanaged. This malpractice not only cripples the economic structure but also erodes public trust in leadership. While it is a pressing concern, it is also an opportunity to strengthen governance, ensure accountability, and re-establish public faith. This plan seeks to provide a structured approach to tackling this issue head-on.

The Gravity of the Issue

From 2009 to 2018, corporate elites illicitly moved out an alarming \$41.5bn from Sri Lanka. In 2022, Sri Lanka defaulted on a staggering \$51bn in foreign debt.

- **Case Study:** Unlike Sri Lanka, Singapore's credibility remains intact despite owing \$845bn.

Proposed Measures

Legislative Reforms

- Repeal the 20th Amendment and reintroduce the checks and balances ensured by the 19th Amendment.
- Abolish the executive presidency, focusing on a Prime Minister and Cabinet accountable to the parliament.
- Convert National Procurement Guidelines into a law, mandating procedures for unsolicited proposals.

Enhanced Accountability & Transparency

- Implement mandatory accountability measures on public procurement.
- Establish an open digital platform to detail foreign loans and their utilization, coupled with regular press briefings.
- Act immediately on findings from COPE, COPA, COPF, revealing misuse of public resources.

Empowerment & Independence of Law Enforcement

- Strengthen law enforcement's ability to act against corruption irrespective of an individual's status.
- Begin a comprehensive audit of all State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) to halt ongoing corruption.



Strengthened Public Service & Asset Management.

- De-politicize the public service, enhancing the independence of public officials.
- Mandate public disclosure of asset declarations, centralize record maintenance, and facilitate regular reviews.
- Establish an independent Asset Management Authority.

Awareness, Education & Stakeholder Collaboration

- Revamp the educational framework to promote attitude and value-based systems.
- Engage institutions like the Public Service Commission, Central Bank's Financial Intelligence Unit, Chamber of Commerce, and others to demand transparency





Transforming Finance: Steering Towards Fiscal Sustainability and Economic Resilience



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Transforming Finance: Steering Towards Fiscal Sustainability and Economic Resilience

In the Finance sector, our Blueprint aims at fortifying the financial backbone of the nation. The Goal is to create a more Responsive, Transparent, and Sustainable Financial Ecosystem that better serves the needs of the nation while remaining globally competitive

Streamlining State-Owned Enterprises for a Robust Economy

To revitalize State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) as a catalyst for Economic Development, we propose adopting the following streamlined, focused, and transparent strategies:

- **Embrace Public-Private Partnerships:** To reduce the financial burden on the state, SOEs should engage more actively in Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), as successfully exemplified by the Port of Hambantota.
- **Debt-Equity Swaps for Financial Health:** SOEs should consider debt-equity swap agreements as part of their debt restructuring efforts. This approach would involve collaborating with Profit-driven Private entities, allowing for a shared responsibility in financial matters between both parties.
- **Operational Reform and Decentralization:** Target the biggest loss-making SOEs for immediate reform, breaking them down into smaller, more manageable units each focused on profit generation.
- **Expert Oversight Committees:** Establish independent oversight committees for SOEs, consisting of professionals with proven academic and managerial expertise. The selection should be merit-based and competitive.
- **Leadership Training:** Begin capacity-building initiatives starting from the top management to instill innovative strategies and better overall performance.
- **Adopt Global Best Practices:** To enhance the management of State-Owned Enterprises, we should look to successful models like Singapore's Temasek Holdings. This approach is particularly relevant for struggling sectors such as seen with the airline industry, where effective restructuring and management have proven to turn around failing businesses, as seen with Malaysia Airlines. Following 2014's aviation tragedies, Malaysian Airlines, facing bankruptcy, restructured with expert management, leading to significant improvements.
- **Asset and Land Management:** Identify and list all State-Owned Lands and their suitability for development projects, making them available through an open tender basis to both local and foreign investors.



- **International Audits for Transparency:** Implement regular independent audits by global firms for state-owned enterprises to assess financial health and capital adequacy. Such audits have previously exposed financial shortcomings in institutions like People's Bank and Bank of Ceylon, highlighting the need for ongoing oversight. In the 1990s, audits by Arthur D. Little and Booz Allen Hamilton revealed capital inadequacies in People's Bank and Bank of Ceylon due to liabilities surpassing assets. These flawed accounting practices still persist today.
- **Expert Regulatory Bodies:** Institute specialized regulatory bodies to overcome existing legal and technological challenges.
- **Multi-Year Budget Forecasting:** Mandate that all SOEs produce a comprehensive multi-year budget forecast every three years for greater efficiency and clarity on Governmental priorities.

Central Bank: Preserving Economic Stability and Ensuring Fiscal Responsibility

A Robust and Independent Central Bank is crucial for the stable economic functioning of any country. In Sri Lanka, the institution's decisions have far-reaching implications, affecting everything from inflation to interest rates and even individual financial decisions like mortgages and vehicle leases. Thus, it is imperative that the Central Bank operate independently and efficiently.

- **Monetary Policy Independence:** The Central Bank must have the Autonomy to implement monetary policies as it deems appropriate. A lack of independence can lead to poor fiscal decisions, such as the excessive printing of LKR 125 billion in April 2022, primarily used for state employee salaries, which undermines economic stability.
- **Encourage Official Remittances:** With remittances contributing \$6-7 billion annually to the economy, the Central Bank should incentivize Sri Lankans abroad to use official channels for transferring funds. This can be accomplished through offering premium interest rates for foreign currency deposits, special housing loans, and pension schemes. Doing so would alleviate the current forex crisis exacerbated by informal currency exchange channels.
- **Maintain Foreign Exchange Reserves:** It is crucial for the Central Bank to hold foreign exchange reserves sufficient to cover at least three months of imports. This will provide a safety net against economic uncertainties and contribute to maintaining a stable exchange rate.

- **Responsible Borrowing and Investment Oversight:** The Government of Sri Lanka has often resorted to heavy external borrowings to bridge deficits or fund ambiguous projects. The Central Bank should scrutinize these borrowings to ensure that they offer a reasonable return and are capable of earning or saving enough foreign exchange to service the debt.
- **Reassessing Tax Reforms:** The previous Government's reduction of VAT from 15% to 8% and cuts in payable personal taxes led to a drastic fall in revenue by LKR 500-600 billion, amounting to 4% of the GDP. The Central Bank must collaborate with the Government to ensure that these tax reforms, are taken in a constructive manner. The focus should be on creating a balanced taxation system that does not unduly burden the populace while ensuring fiscal sustainability.

Streamlining Public Procurement for Efficiency and Transparency

The procurement process in any nation is the cornerstone of effective governance and economic development. Here, we focus on modernizing and improving Sri Lanka's procurement system, ensuring it is transparent, efficient, and fair.

Leveraging Technology for Transparency: To tackle issues such as corruption and slow information exchange, Sri Lanka should adopt eprocurement systems. Digital platforms can greatly reduce transactional and administrative costs, while simultaneously strengthening accountability and transparency.

Enhancing Workforce Morale: Given that procurement is a specialized field, the personnel responsible should be fairly remunerated to motivate them and retain talent. A well-compensated, skilled workforce is essential for effective and ethical procurement.

Escalating Debt Obligations: Sri Lanka's rising external debt repayments-which have increased from an average of \$2.7 billion from 2015-18 to \$4.4 billion for 2021-25 - call for prudent procurement and spending policies to maintain financial stability.





Foreign Policy: Building Strong Global Partnerships for National Progress



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Foreign Policy: Building Strong Global Partnerships for National Progress

Our approach to Foreign Policy centers on creating strong Global Partnerships that will bring about sustained progress and prosperity for Sri Lanka. We propose;

Overseas Employment and Investment

- Embassies will actively promote skilled and semi-skilled employment opportunities abroad and facilitate connections through an online platform that links workers with authorized recruiters and overseas employers. This platform will offer crucial guidance and documentation. Simultaneously, embassies will also focus on attracting foreign direct investment into Sri Lanka.

Ambassador Performance Metrics

- Embassies will engage in promotional campaigns to foster business interests in their respective countries.
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) will be assigned to Ambassadors, with monthly and annual targets to assess effectiveness.

Information Dissemination

- Launch a Quarterly magazine that provides key updates on the Sri Lankan Economy and Opportunities, aimed at improving our Business and Competitiveness rankings.

Embassies Facilitating Crisis Management

- Our embassies should serve as vital links to National Institutions, especially during times of Crises such as food or medication shortages in Sri Lanka. By partnering with foreign Healthcare and supply agencies, embassies can facilitate the process for relatives, friends, and donors overseas to send critical supplies back home. Such a proactive role ensures prompt and efficient solutions to pressing challenges in the nation.

Friendly Border Policy

- Strengthen Law enforcement and security ties with ASEAN and Commonwealth countries to improve regional coordination and counter-terrorism efforts.

Trade Agreements

- Leverage the expertise of Technocrats and Seasoned Diplomats to negotiate Free Trade Agreements that are favorable to Sri Lanka.

Exploring Alternative Currency Mechanisms

- Drawing inspiration from the 2017 agreements where the Central Banks of Russia and China opted to conduct crude oil transactions in Yuan, and the India-Russia exploration of Ruble/INR payment systems, Sri Lanka should evaluate the feasibility of a Ruble/LKR trading mechanism. Given our strong ties with countries that are dedollarising, this could offer a viable alternative to high-interest currency swaps.



Enhancing Business Environment



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Enhancing Business Environment

For a thriving economy, it is essential to create an environment that fosters entrepreneurship and international collaboration. By simplifying processes, adjusting tax frameworks, and offering incentives, we can significantly improve our business environment, making it more inviting for both domestic and international investors.

Simplified Investment Process

- Streamline the business registration paperwork to create a more concise and efficient process.
- Offer preliminary approvals within 24 hours, eliminating unnecessary wait times.
- Overhaul regulations to minimize bureaucratic red tape.

Tax Incentives

- Set Dividend tax, Capital Gains tax, and corporate tax for specific sectors to 0%.
- Establish a 20-year reduced rate guarantee through a BOI agreement for pivotal sectors including Education, BPO/KPO, Health, Waste Management, Water Collection, Aquaculture, and Manufacturing, while maintaining a competitive 12% standard corporate tax rate for other ventures.
- Introduce a PAYE tax of 12%, applicable only for those earning above LKR 500,000 monthly.

Visa Benefits for Foreign Investors

- Offer multi-year or honorary residence visas for foreigners depositing \$100,000 or more in banks for durations ranging from 5-10 years.
- Develop an efficient online application system for quicker approvals.

Encouraging Entrepreneurship and Innovation

- Address the challenge of raising capital and starting a business for many entrepreneurs by establishing funding programs through financial institutions that provide favorable credit terms for innovative and small businesses.
- Create support programs that offer resources, mentoring, and training necessary for business development.

Boosting Investor Confidence

- Launch awareness programs highlighting ease of doing business in Sri Lanka.
- Prioritize transparency, deregulation, and streamlined procedures and documentation to attract foreign investment.

Strategic Asset Leasing

- Offer a 90-year tax-free lease of the Colombo Port City to a credible investor, reminiscent of the Hong Kong lease model between China and Britain in 1898.



Advancing Women's Empowerment and Wellbeing



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Advancing Women's Empowerment and Wellbeing

In Sri Lanka, the empowerment and well-being of women are cardinal to the nation's social and economic prosperity. Recognizing the pivotal role of women in every sphere of life, from the economy to the household, it is quintessential to establish policies and programs that uphold their rights, health, safety, and opportunities for advancement. We are committed to fostering an environment where women are not just protected but are also empowered to thrive, lead, and contribute meaningfully to the national development.

Women's Economic Empowerment

- **Entrepreneurship Development:** Initiate programs that offer financial literacy education, credit facilities, and necessary support for business development services to enhance women's entrepreneurship.
- **Equal Opportunities in Employment:** Enact policies to ensure equal pay, equal opportunities, and fair treatment for women in the workplace.

Health and Sanitary Well-Being

- **Health Facilitation:** Create an enabling environment for women to easily access essential reproductive health services, mental health support, and quality healthcare.
- **Improvement of Sanitary Facilities:** Implement nationwide programs to ensure that all women have access to affordable and quality sanitary products.

Women's Safety

- **Legislation:** Strengthen and enforce laws to eliminate all forms of violence against women and ensure proper implementation.
- **Awareness Programs:** Introduce educational programs to raise awareness about women's rights and security.

Encouraging Women's Representation and Leadership

- **Women's Representation:** Increase the representation of women in various institutions and encourage them to take leadership roles across all sectors.
- **Women's Contribution to Policy Making:** Incorporate women's views and suggestions in policy-making and decision-making processes.





Safeguarding and Nurturing Children's Development



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Safeguarding and Nurturing Children's Development

Children are the future of Sri Lanka. Ensuring their holistic development, safety, and well-being is not just a moral obligation but a strategic investment in the nation's future. With an emphasis on education, health, protection, and participation, our objective is to institute policies and initiatives that cater to the diverse needs of children. We aim to guarantee every child in Sri Lanka has the foundation and opportunities necessary to reach their fullest potential in a safe, nurturing, and inclusive environment.

Quality Education

- **Holistic Curriculum:** Promote a balanced curriculum that includes not only academics but also creativity and moral development.
- **Technology Integration:** Remove barriers to access new technology and digital education to enhance learning.

Health and Nutrition

- **Health Services:** Improve health services with a focus on prevention and treatment for children.
- **Nutrition Programs:** Implement programs to ensure every child has access to a balanced and nutritious diet.

Safety and Care

- **Legal Security:** Strengthen laws to protect children from labor, abuse, and violence.
- **Community Education:** Introduce programs to raise social awareness about children's rights and protection.

Enhancing Expression and Participation

- **Space for Expression:** Create platforms for children to express themselves and participate in social activities.
- **Child-Centric Policies:** Develop policies that address the diverse needs and aspirations of children.



Redefining Sri Lanka's Education and Training Framework



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Redefining Sri Lanka's Education and Training Framework

We firmly believe that the education system in Sri Lanka requires comprehensive development across all educational stages. To make this developmental journey effective, it is essential to allocate adequate budgetary funds. Innovative changes must be implemented at every stage, from early childhood education to university. Additionally, expanding access to higher education can be achieved through the provision of financial assistance in the form of interest-free educational loans. This multifaceted approach not only lays the foundation for individual educational development but also for national prosperity and progress. As a fundamental reform, we propose the allocation of 200 billion rupees from the budget for education, with an annual increase of 10%. Some additional proposals are outlined below.

Improving Primary Education and Early Childhood Education

- Establish a committee to oversee and ensure high-quality education across all educational establishments.
- Advocate for an improved early childhood education system, focusing on cognitive skills

Secondary Education: Implementing a Quality Student Portal

- Introduce a centralized student portal to facilitate access to educational resources, track academic progress, obtain guidance, and facilitate communication between students, teachers, and advisors.

Tertiary Education: Promoting STEM Education

- Promote STEM curricula (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).
- Offer interest-free educational loans for students wishing to continue to university level.

University Education

- Encourage international and private universities' establishment through lucrative tax incentives.
- Channel efforts to raise the global rankings of local universities.
- Revise courses to align with current and projected industry demands and employment opportunities.
- Assist in linking students with relevant industries based on their educational qualifications for internship programs.

Vocational Training Programs: Providing Opportunities for Skill Development

- Provide vocational training programs to offer practical experience and prepare students for careers in trade and technical fields.
- Reduce economic barriers to higher education by offering interest-free educational loans, thus providing opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds to pursue higher education and vocational training.



Elevating Healthcare: A Strategic Approach for Quality and Access



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Elevating Healthcare: A Strategic Approach for Quality and Access

The global Covid-19 pandemic underscored the critical need for a strong healthcare system. Enhancing necessary infrastructure and cultivating a pool of qualified medical professionals presents a significant challenge. This endeavor aligns with our goal of generating foreign exchange by fostering sectors like tourism and healthcare. Our objective is to position Sri Lanka as a leader in healthcare within the South Asian region, akin to Singapore's global prominence in the field.

Boost Local Medicine Production

- Domestic production of essential medicines can stem the outflow of significant funds from the country. However, substantial investments in machinery and expertise are requisite. By meeting local drug demands and exporting surplus medications, revenue can be bolstered.

Expediting the Import Process of Medicines

- Streamline the NMRA approval process for medicine imports, reducing wait times and inefficiencies.

Infrastructure Renovation and Health Tourism Sector Promotion

- Vital investments in modern, high-quality infrastructure are essential to establish a distinctive healthcare service on par with the private sector.
- Equipping hospitals, both public and private, with essential health equipment is imperative.
- Improving policies and infrastructure to attract health tourists to Sri Lanka is paramount to showcasing our superior healthcare standards.

Streamlining Medical Education

- Streamlining the medical education process and examinations, along with offering competitive salaries, can mitigate the exodus of medical specialists.
- Mandating a minimum of five years of service within the country post-medical education completion can address workforce retention challenges.

Retain Skilled Professionals

- Offer competitive salaries and better working conditions.
- Strike deals with trade unions to prevent mass migration of healthcare workers.



Revolutionizing Ports & Shipping for Enhanced Efficiency and Global Competitiveness



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Revolutionizing Ports & Shipping for Enhanced Efficiency and Global Competitiveness

Recognizing and effectively leveraging Sri Lanka's strategic location at the center of global maritime transport routes is crucial for the country's economic growth. To address existing challenges in the port and shipping sector and maximize its contribution to the economy, we propose the following strategic solutions:

Port Optimization

- **Outsourcing Port Services:** Enhancing port efficiency by engaging private companies to manage port operations. Introducing new technology can further increase productivity.
- **Privatization of Port Terminals:** Improving port terminal operations by involving private companies.
- **Staff Restructuring:** Addressing overstaffing in Sri Lanka's ports through regular evaluations and performance-based incentives. Fair wages without discrepancies should be ensured through wage reviews.

Regulatory Reform

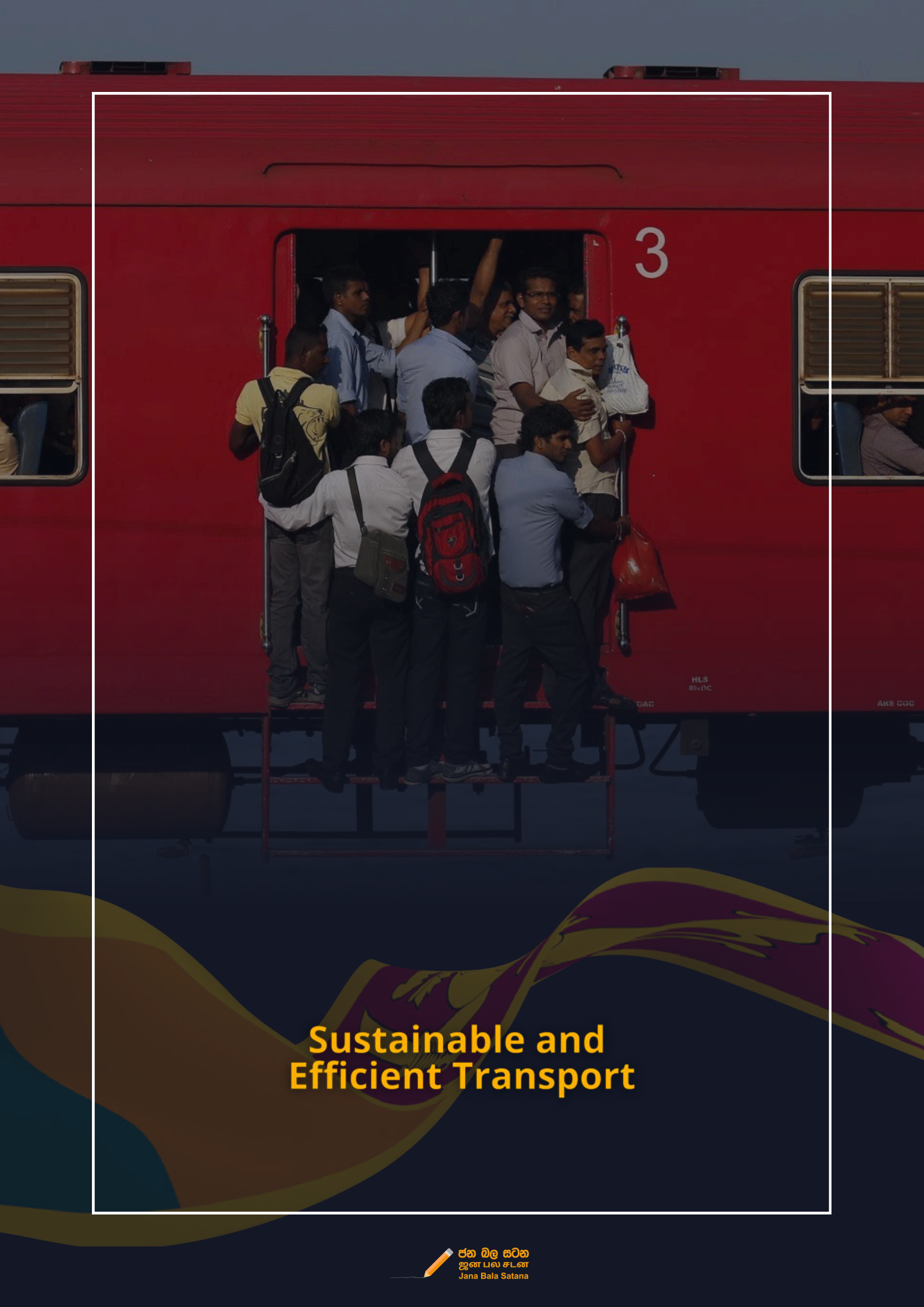
- **Pleasure Boat Regulations:** Revising high fees for pleasure boats entering and exiting Sri Lankan ports to attract more foreign tourist boats. This can bolster foreign exchange earnings and promote Sri Lankan tourism, leading to new investment and employment opportunities.
- **Creation of Maritime Authority:** Establishing a dedicated authority to oversee maritime activities and ensure maritime safety.

Development of Trincomalee Port

- Leveraging Trincomalee, one of the largest natural harbors globally, to establish it as a regional maritime hub. Proper management of resources in the vicinity of Trincomalee Port can facilitate this transformation.

Trade Unions and Stakeholder Collaboration

- **Balancing Trade Union Involvement:** Trade unions play a crucial role, but balancing their involvement is vital to ensure progress is not halted
- **Enhancing Transparency and Accountability:** Ensuring fair representation within trade unions requires the establishment of transparent guidelines and mechanisms.



Sustainable and Efficient Transport



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Sustainable and Efficient Transport

To optimize our transport system for a future that prioritizes sustainability, accessibility, and efficiency, we must introduce comprehensive changes to our current systems and infrastructure. These changes will not only elevate the efficiency of our transportation but also make it more environmentally friendly.

Development of Public Transport Services

- Offer necessary concessions to encourage the introduction of safe and comfortable buses, akin to those used in developed countries, in place of the currently predominant buses.
- Collaborate with the private information technology sector to implement technical solutions such as real-time mobile applications and websites for passenger convenience in accessing bus and train services.
- Regulate the quality of school service vehicles to ensure safe transportation of students and prevent overcrowding.
- Discourage the importation and proliferation of three-wheelers, while introducing a fair payment system and ethical standards for drivers.

Standardization of Railways

- Manage technical and human resources efficiently to minimize train delays.
- Increase train frequency during peak hours and deploy additional carriages to alleviate passenger congestion.
- Maximize railway usage for transporting goods such as petroleum, stone, sand, and waste.
- Expedite the implementation of an electronic ticket system to reduce printing costs and environmental impact, with collaboration from private IT companies.

Increasing the Use of Electric Vehicles

- Reduce heavy export taxes on electric vehicles to promote their adoption.
- Establish vehicle battery charging stations powered by solar and wind energy across the island.



Information Technology: Propelling Sri Lanka as a Leading IT Services Exporter



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Information Technology: Propelling Sri Lanka as a Leading IT Services Exporter

Sri Lanka's Information Technology - Business Process Management (IT-BPM) sector is gaining traction as a key area of growth, holding recognition as a priority investment sector. The island stands out as a leading off-shore destination for Information Technology Enabled Services (ITEs) spanning diverse domains such as Finance, Accounting, Legal, Insurance, Banking, and Telecommunications. As Sri Lanka continues to mark its territory in the global landscape, it's emerging as a recognized center for both IT and knowledge services delivery. The sector's robust performance is evident with:

- Over 600 active IT/BPM companies
- More than 150,000 job opportunities
- Nearly \$1.5 billion in export revenue generated by 2022 are a few of them

IT-related Sub-sectors and Investment Opportunities

- **Software Development:** Companies like HCL Technologies Lanka, CodeGen International, and Virtusa provide various software and website development services.
- **IT-related Services:** Knowledge and business-based services (KPO and BPO) are in high demand globally, with organizations like HSBC Data Processing Lanka and WNS Global Services leading the sector.
- **IT Training Centers:** Institutions like the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT) and Asia Pacific Institute of Information Technology (APIIT) play a crucial role in producing skilled IT professionals.

Strengthening Sri Lanka's Global Position in IT Services

- **Comprehensive Services:** With expertise in software development, quality assurance, and user experience, Sri Lanka is positioned as a comprehensive IT solutions provider globally.
- **Managed Services Expertise:** Sri Lanka offers a range of services including constant monitoring, data security, and software updates.
- **Skilled Workforce:** Sri Lanka's software engineers and IT professionals are renowned for their adaptability and quality.
- **Service Connectivity and Data Centers:** Sri Lanka's geographical and climatic advantages make it conducive for setting up globally operating data centers.
- **IT Sustainability:** Sri Lanka prioritizes environmentally friendly practices in its IT operations.
- **Collaboration:** Encouraging partnerships and knowledge sharing between local IT companies and international counterparts is actively pursued.



Telecommunication Sector Reform



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Telecommunication Sector Reform

Reforming Sri Lanka's telecommunication sector is imperative for fostering economic growth and driving innovation across various sectors. In an increasingly digitized world, robust communication networks are pivotal for socio-economic development. By investing in technology infrastructure, enhancing digital literacy, and promoting regional cooperation, Sri Lanka can position itself as a technology-equipped nation. This approach not only enhances the quality of life for Sri Lankans but also attracts investment and stimulates growth in local technology industries, ensuring a prosperous future in the digital age.

Expanding High-speed Internet Access

Priority should be given to extending high-speed Internet services nationwide at affordable rates. Opening up the infrastructure for fiber optic networks to connect even rural areas with fast Internet connections is essential. Partnerships with private companies can support the development of the digital economy, with positive implications for the education sector.

Improving Digital Literacy and Skills

Enhancing telecommunications infrastructure must be complemented by efforts to improve digital literacy and skills. Nationwide programs should be implemented to assess digital skills and provide necessary training and awareness on cybersecurity. Public-private partnerships, online platforms, inclusion in school curricula, and practical applications can all contribute to empowering people with digital knowledge, fostering productivity, innovation, and global economic contribution.

Establishment of Data Centers

The establishment of data centers is a crucial aspect of Sri Lanka's telecommunications reform. These centers serve as the backbone of modern digital services, enabling secure storage and processing of large volumes of data essential to various sectors. By developing state-of-the-art data centers with robust infrastructure, clear regulatory frameworks, and investment incentives, Sri Lanka can attract investment and enhance digital service delivery. The strategic location of sea lanes and favorable weather conditions in Sri Lanka make it conducive to setting up data centers.





Advancing the Energy Sector



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Advancing the Energy Sector

In an era where global focus turns towards sustainable energy, Sri Lanka stands poised to address this imperative. The nation's abundant natural resources present a significant opportunity to emerge as a renewable energy hub in the Asian region. Endowed with year-round sunlight, wind, and water resources, Sri Lanka can sustainably meet its energy demands while reducing reliance on fossil fuels and contributing to greenhouse gas emission reduction. Embracing green industries concurrently generates new employment prospects.

Strategic Pricing and Policy Implementation

- **Cost and Pricing Model:** Ensure cost-reflective pricing for energy and utilities.
- **Biodiversity Policy Framework:** Leverage the groundwork of Sri Lanka's environment plan (NBSAP, NRFIPA, NAP-CCD, NAPCC). With the existing knowledge and resources, transform the nation's challenges into opportunities through funding from ESG-compassionate institutions.

Renewable and Conventional Energy Infrastructures

- Integration of 500 MW of solar panels and 50 MW of battery storage systems into the national grid under a fast-track initiative.
- Encouragement of private sector investment in 2000 MW of solar power plants, potentially saving US\$ 800 million annually on fuel-based power generation.
- Prioritization of solar energy for daytime power generation, with thermal power plants predominantly operational at night.
- Transition from diesel power plants to coal-fired counterparts, aiming to reduce annual fuel costs from \$1,620 million to \$600 million.

Climate Financing and Green Bonds

Sri Lanka should actively pursue climate financing opportunities, aligning with international standards such as COP21. Leveraging sustainable bonds, green bonds, resilience bonds, and blue bonds presents avenues for attracting investment. With the global green bond market projected to exceed US\$1 trillion, Sri Lanka stands to benefit significantly, directing investments towards renewable energy, sustainable transportation, pollution control, carbon emission reduction, infrastructure development, and biodiversity conservation, thereby fostering a green economy.

Biogas and Waste Energy Expansion

Expanding the utilization of biogas and waste energy nationwide alongside enhancing the capacity of existing crude oil refineries constitutes pivotal initiatives. Proposals include constructing a new facility with a capacity of 100,000 barrels per day, ensuring 51% government ownership, modernizing operations, and meeting evolving energy demands.

A woman with brown hair in a ponytail, wearing a blue and white floral shirt, is leaning out of a blue train window and taking a photo with her smartphone. The train is moving through a lush green landscape with mountains in the background. The image is framed by a white border.

Reimagining Tourism: A Holistic Approach for Sustainable Growth



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Reimagining Tourism: A Holistic Approach for Sustainable Growth

The tourism industry stands as the second largest foreign exchange earner for Sri Lanka. Despite being recognized as an attractive and comparatively affordable destination within the global tourism landscape, recent events, notably the 2019 Easter attack and subsequent developments, have posed significant challenges to the sector. To restore Sri Lanka's status as a desirable and secure destination for international travelers, while adapting to evolving global trends, we propose the following strategies under the **"Jana Bala Satana"**.

Harnessing the Blue Economy

The vast coastal treasures of Sri Lanka provide a lucrative opportunity. By spotlighting our maritime assets, like the burgeoning yachting sector, we can cater to tourists drawn to marine adventures, from sailing and scuba diving to marine conservation, appealing to the eco-aware traveler.

Medical Tourism

Sri Lanka's competitive advantage in providing affordable, top-tier healthcare can be transformed into a medical tourism hotspot. Highlighting our prowess in specialized medical services and curative retreats can pull international patients, making Sri Lanka a go-to healthcare destination.

Educational Tourism

Inviting esteemed global educational institutions to Sri Lanka can establish us as an education tourism center. Positioned aptly and blessed with a pristine environment, our nation can draw students from neighbors, especially India. Delivering stellar education in a diverse milieu will not only lure global students but will also be a catalyst for intellectual exchanges and economic progression.

Strategic Long-Term Marketing

Instead of relying solely on short-term advertising campaigns, we should develop comprehensive long-term plans that prioritize building and nurturing relationships with target markets. While it is important to maintain current efforts in countries like Ukraine and Russia, we must also consider the long-term implications and work towards creating sustainable tourism demand.

Visa Policy Revision

To enhance tourist inflows, Sri Lanka can consider revising its visa pricing structure to be more favorable to incoming travelers. This adjustment, aligned with international practices, has the potential to attract a larger volume of tourists, thereby bolstering the tourism sector's contribution to the economy.



Food Security & Nutritional Welfare



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Food Security & Nutritional Welfare

Food security stands as a cornerstone of our national prosperity, underlining the right of every Sri Lankan to access a nutritious diet. Central to this endeavor is the cultivation of community, bolstering support for farmers, and preserving our agricultural heritage. To realize these objectives, we advocate for strategic budget allocations, targeted nutritional interventions, focused attention on vulnerable regions, sanitation enhancement, and infrastructure expansion.

Budgetary Allocations

Proposing an additional allocation of 100 billion rupees in the national budget for the advancement of food security, with a yearly increment of 10%. This investment will facilitate targeted nutritional support, foster agricultural progress, and enhance food distribution networks.

Support for Farmers

Recognizing farmers as the backbone of our food culture, we endeavor to equip them with modern agricultural practices, high-quality seeds, and access to credit facilities. Strengthening extension services to provide technical guidance and training is paramount to enhancing farmer productivity and promoting sustainable farming methods. Additionally, establishing direct market linkages will elevate farmers' incomes through equitable pricing mechanisms and reduce reliance on intermediaries.

Targeted Nutritional Assistance

Special attention must be directed towards vulnerable demographics, including infants, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating mothers, the elderly, and plantation workers. Implementing screening programs to identify malnutrition and enhancing initiatives such as school meal programs and preschool nutrition interventions will effectively address nutritional deficiencies within these groups.

Infrastructure Enhancement for Food Security

Improving both food production and distribution necessitates strategic investments in infrastructure, encompassing irrigation systems, storage facilities, and transportation networks. These enhancements will mitigate post-harvest losses and ensure efficient food delivery to markets.

Promotion of Food Self-sufficiency

A pivotal objective is the elevation of food self-sufficiency. Empowering individuals to diversify crop cultivation to lessen dependence on imports and promoting the growth of staple foods such as rice, vegetables, and fruits are key strategies. Crafting policies to bolster resilience against global market fluctuations and advocating for the consumption of locally produced foods further fortifies our food system.



Strengthening Agriculture: From Traditional to Modern Techniques



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Strengthening Agriculture: From Traditional to Modern Techniques

Agriculture stands as a historic cornerstone of Sri Lanka's identity, earning the nation the moniker of the **"Granary of the East"** in times past. However, recent challenges have hindered its progress. Decisions made by the administration play a pivotal role in either advancing or hindering agricultural prosperity. To address prevailing issues and setbacks within the sector, we propose the following strategies:

Improving Irrigation Infrastructure

- Subsidize irrigation to ensure consistent water supply and elevate agricultural production.
- Boost capacity for 2,400 tanks and develop and rehabilitate irrigation wells.
- Promote water-saving technologies like sprinkler and drip irrigation systems by offering subsidies for farmers to adopt them.

Promoting Agricultural Innovation

- Introduce innovations to curtail post-harvest losses.
- Optimize the use of Government-owned farms through private sector collaboration, ensuring food security.
- Focus on productivity improvements, given that while the agricultural sector employs 25% of the workforce, it contributes only 7% to the national output.

Fertilizer Management

- Conducting feasibility studies to explore the viability of utilizing organic fertilizers as a sustainable alternative.
- Regulating fertilizer subsidy programs and actively soliciting feedback from farmers to address their evolving needs.
- Implementing measures to combat kidney disease in the Rajarata region, a significant agricultural hub, through continuous, randomized research on the compounds present in chemical fertilizers.





Revitalizing the Fisheries Sector



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Revitalizing the Fisheries Sector

Sri Lanka, situated as an island nation amidst the primary shipping routes of the Indian Ocean, boasts extensive coastlines and a network of inland water bodies, including lakes, dykes, and canals. The livelihoods of coastal and riverine communities predominantly hinge on fishing. To elevate the quality of life for these communities and foster growth within the fishing industry while mitigating existing challenges, we propose the following initiatives:

Indo-Sri Lankan Issue

- Prioritizing diplomatic interventions to address the longstanding Indo-Sri Lankan fisheries issue and forge sustainable solutions.

Sustainable Practices

- Emphasize open ocean aquaculture to lessen dependency on marine wildlife, paired with adequate training for sustainable fishing practices.

Infrastructure Upgrades

- Introduce stackable seafood mobile chests for preserving fish freshness during inland transportation.
- Deploy mobile cold storage containers for fish freezing in vessels.

Technology Integration

- Offer a mobile application detailing real-time fish prices and stock availability across fishing villages.

Community Engagement

- Boost community income through expanded oyster cultivation projects and the intensification of existing fresh and brackish water fish farms.

Education & Training

- Incorporate technical, vocational, and entrepreneurship courses related to aquaculture in current vocational colleges.

Ornamental Fishery

- Expand ornamental fish breeding and associated training centers.



Empowering the Dairy Sector: Synergy and Research



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Empowering the Dairy Sector: Synergy and Research

The dairy sector in our nation transcends mere industry; it embodies the livelihoods of numerous local dairy farmers, upon whom many families depend. Endowed with a conducive climatic environment and fertile pastures for dairy cattle rearing, Sri Lanka possesses immense potential in this domain. However, persistent challenges impede its progress. We advocate for timely provision of essential facilities to surmount these obstacles, thereby unlocking the industry's full potential and achieving its objectives.

Enhancing Quality

The Department of Animal Production and Health, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture, must foster closer collaboration to swiftly address dairy farmers' challenges and ensure high-quality milk production.

Increasing Productivity

Equipping small-scale dairy farmers with appropriate knowledge and technology can elevate daily milk production from the current 2-3 liters to 5-6 liters under optimal conditions.

Promoting Value-added Products

Emphasizing local production of dairy by-products such as cheese and butter, while advocating for the consumption of pure liquid milk over milk powder through effective public outreach.

Ensuring Fair Compensation

Encouraging the procurement of quality, safely produced milk to recognize the labor of dairy farmers and incentivize adherence to quality standards.

Improving Supply Chain Infrastructure

Facilitating the purchase of liquid milk from farmers and enhancing cold storage and transportation facilities to preserve reserves effectively.





A Blueprint for a Greener Sri Lanka



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A Blueprint for a Greener Sri Lanka

A sustainable environment is a pillar of prosperity. Sri Lanka stands on the cusp of significant environmental challenges that demand holistic solutions. Here is a condensed roadmap toward a greener nation:

Foundations of Environmental Initiatives

- Prioritize key sectors: environmental protection, waste management, environmental impact assessments, and public awareness.
- Employ real-time online monitoring systems for transparent and effective decision-making.

Strengthening Environmental Protection

- Standardize air and water quality benchmarks and formulate clear industry guidelines.
- Mandate environmental protection licenses, ensuring industry compliance. Re-evaluate industry categorizations, especially for small-scale sectors, to avoid undue political influences.
- Launch robust initiatives against vehicle pollution, given its significant contribution to the air quality decline.

Revamping Waste Management

- Empower local authorities with adequate resources for efficient waste collection and disposal.
- Enhance waste segregation systems and address resource scarcities.
- Extend and enforce bans on polythene and plastics. Develop robust systems to manage municipal, hazardous, clinical, and electronic waste.

Enhanced Environmental Oversight

- Regularly monitor environmental impact assessments, ensuring adherence to set regulations.

Empowering the Masses through Education

- Leverage mass media to inform the populace about environmental initiatives.
- Introduce environment-centric programs in schools and optimize platforms like social media to bolster environmental consciousness.

Innovative Environmental Solutions

- Champion electromobility, green technology, and green fuel to combat pollution.
- Establish consistent air and water quality tracking mechanisms.
- Manage waste dumping sites effectively, enhancing local authority efficiency.



Author's Acknowledgment



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Author's Acknowledgment

At the culmination of this manifesto, it is crucial to acknowledge the exceptional individual whose tireless efforts and visionary mindset have brought this work to fruition. **Sean Samarasinghe**, a dynamic and visionary corporate leader, stands as the sole author of this manifesto, reflecting his unwavering dedication to Economic Development, Public Administration, and Politics.

Sean Samarasinghe is a dedicated researcher and scholar who has poured countless hours into this endeavor. With unwavering determination, he immersed himself in a comprehensive exploration of various disciplines, diligently reading and analyzing numerous studies. His commitment to this solitary pursuit of knowledge is truly commendable.

Born into a family with a deep-rooted political background, Sean's upbringing fostered a profound interest in Government affairs and leadership. His exposure to the intricacies of Public Administration and Research, ignited Sean's aspiration to contribute to the development of Sri Lanka.

Sean's educational journey began at The British School in Colombo, one of Sri Lanka's most prestigious institutions, where he distinguished himself academically and demonstrated exceptional leadership potential. Following his International Baccalaureate, Sean pursued a Bachelor's degree in Law (LLB Hons) at the University of Kent in Canterbury, England, where he consistently ranked among the top students in his class and received multiple accolades for his academic excellence. Building upon his academic achievements, Sean embarked on a career as an investment analyst, overseeing the portfolios of high-net-worth individuals and institutional clients. Through this experience, he honed his skills in corporate finance and developed a keen sense of commercial awareness, successfully identifying strategic opportunities that maximized investment returns for his clients.

Sean pursued a Master's in Public Administration, deepening his grasp of Public Policy, Economics, and Government Affairs. With enhanced research and analytical skills from his studies, he founded Magna Fortuna Holdings (Pvt) Ltd, a conglomerate offering advisory services. With its diversified portfolio, Magna Fortuna Holdings is committed to driving innovation, providing comprehensive advisory services, and positioning Sri Lanka as a regional hub for trade and investment. The firm's subsidiaries, including Binary Technologies International, Zapmail, Commodity Trading Global Lanka, and others, contribute uniquely to this vision, reinforcing its position as a leading corporate entity in Sri Lanka.

However, Sean's ambitions extend beyond the realm of business. His profound passion for Public Administration and Politics has driven him to pursue a career in Government, inspired by his father's impactful legacy. Armed with his diverse experiences, creative thinking, and unwavering professionalism, Sean is poised to make a positive impact on the lives of the people in Sri Lanka. It is with utmost admiration and gratitude that we recognize Sean Samarasinghe's exceptional contributions as the sole author of this manifesto. His remarkable leadership, unwavering dedication to economic development, and profound insights into Public Administration and Politics have enriched our understanding of these critical spheres.



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