



**FOR
YOU**

A DEVELOPED COUNTRY

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Namal Rajapaksa



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NAMAL VISION



**FOR YOU
A DEVELOPED COUNTRY**

Venerable Monks, Priests, Brothers and Sisters,

My Vision For A Developed Sri Lanka

In the 76 years since independence, the decade of 2005-2014 marked its Golden Era. The very purpose of politics was redefined by His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapaksa with his unparalleled service for our motherland through his unwavering courage and brave leadership. He ended the brutal war that destroyed the progress that was to be of our motherland for 30 years. He brought about the dignified freedom of living in one country for all Sri Lankans.

He did not stop there and launched the Mahinda Chinthana programme which would lift Sri Lanka towards a developed state. All Sri Lankans, united by equality in diversity worked hand in hand to make Sri Lanka the fastest-growing country in the world.

We built modern strategic national assets such as the Colombo Port City, Hambantota Port and Mattala Airport based on a long-term plan with clear economic growth targets. The transportation system covering the entire country, including highways and miles-long bridges, was built to connect the North and the South and distribute the opportunities and benefits of development to the entire nation. New power plants and irrigation systems were built to meet all that development needs. Marvels such as the Lotus Tower were built to provide modern technological facilities to the youth. None of them were isolated constructs. They are all interrelated sustainable national resources.

But Sri Lanka was dragged back into a dark age by the government that was elected in 2015. The hard-won freedom by the heroes who sacrificed their lives was completely stalled in just four failed years. The amount of public debt increased and by 2019, the country's economy was about to collapse. State security weakened and eventually, terrorism rose its ugly head. Mother Lanka again succumbed to a miserable fate.

It is with great hope that you elected the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna in 2020 to rebuild our broken motherland. But just as we started to raise our head again, disaster struck. The deadly COVID-19 virus ravaged our country and the entire world for two long years. After being shut down for months, the country's economy deteriorated further. But with the help of the armed forces, health professionals and public service as well as all those who volunteered, we managed to save the lives of hundreds of thousands of people who otherwise would have succumbed to the plague. Even during that very difficult period, we were able to pay salaries to all government employees, subsidise the low-income residents, vaccinate all people, and even pay instalments for the loans taken by the previous governments.



But the economic crisis, which was already severe, worsened. I admit that more suitable decisions could have been taken regarding certain matters. The people who suffered due to all these issues took to the streets to release their pressure. But the people's struggle was soon turned to violence by some local and foreign forces to achieve their heinous political agendas. At that critical moment, we stepped down without harming any of the protesters, because our state is worth a million times more to us than political position power. It was a valuable lesson for the whole world about non-violence in governance.

I have the political experience gained as an elected Member of Parliament for 14 consecutive years and as a Minister during a very challenging two-year period. At the age of 38, as the youngest presidential candidate in history, I wholeheartedly accepted the challenge of running for this year's presidential election from the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna. I have the obligation to build a developed country for you by protecting the national policies of the left-leaning political camp founded by the likes of S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike and D. A. Rajapaksa.

By integrating sustainable solutions for the challenges of the 21st century, and the modern technological revolution with Mahinda Chinthana, let us start again from where the development of this country was stopped. I am ready to shoulder that challenge. I only expect your blessings. I respectfully present to you my policy programme titled Namal Vision to Build a Developed Country For You.

I pledge to you that the country that was broken by the economic crisis will be freed from it and developed safely, just as Mahinda Rajapaksa liberated and united the country that was torn apart by war. I pledge to protect the unity of our country, protect the democratic values of the republic, protect the state assets, protect the Sambuddha Sasana, and protect the freedom of all citizens while achieving the development you expect.

For you,



Namal Rajapaksa



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IMMEDIATE RELIEF, FOR YOU

The country's economy is currently almost entirely driven by the International Monetary Fund. Although it appears as a progressive approach to resolving the economic crisis, it is not the optimum solution.

While it may be helpful that the government revenue is increased, it is certainly disadvantageous that the wider economic activity of the country is suppressed due to the unbearable taxes. Thus, our stance is that we should achieve the IMF's proposed targets without unreasonably and only taxing the people.

Therefore, while we aim to achieve the government's revenue and expenditure targets, we also aim to revive the country's economy through a rapid relief programme.

- **FULFILMENT FOR ALL**

The need for food comes first before any other need. The primary aim of all development is to keep the people from hunger. That is our immediate priority. No one on this land should stay in hunger. Our first mission is to make every person consume at least three healthy meals a day.

- **IMMEDIATE TAX RELIEF**

Value Added Tax (VAT) and Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Tax imposed upon all citizens will be systematically revised. The possible loss of revenue, as a result, will be recouped through already identified efficiency improvements and gap-filling in the Customs, Inland Revenue and Excise Departments.

With the easing of the tax burden, the cost of living will fall to a bearable level.

The current inefficient and costly method of tax collection will be replaced with an effective ICT system thereby allowing citizens to pay their taxes easily.

The additional income that comes to the people's hands as a result of the tax revision will be spent on buying more goods and services which will in turn boost the country's production and increase the market revenue.



- **SAMURDHI STRENGTHENED**

Low-income citizens who are without a steady source of income will be given the Samurdhi financial aid package sufficient to consume three healthy meals per day.

- **RELIEF FOR YOUR UTILITY BILLS**

One of the region's highest monthly water and electricity tariffs that are currently being forced upon the people will be immediately lowered to an optimal level.

- **AFFORDABLE FERTILISER**

Going by the earlier Mahinda Chinthana policy, paddy, vegetable and fruit farmers will receive a permanent fertiliser subsidy scheme. A reasonable price scheme will be extended to other crop plantations including tea. This will allow higher yields so that the food prices can be brought down within the first two seasons.

A special Market Integration Unit will be set up to export the extra yield with value addition.

- **ENERGISING ECONOMIC ACTIVITY**

Import restrictions which are killing the small, medium and large enterprises will be systematically removed allowing the local entrepreneurs to reconnect with their global supply chains and quickly revive their businesses.

Parallel to the imported goods, local manufacturers will also be supported.

The Market Integration Unit will work with local farmers to grow fast-yielding economic crops and with local manufacturers to produce high-quality goods, while also connecting them to the international markets.

- **NEW JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

A special project will be implemented to recruit citizens for local and foreign jobs, especially in the fields of Health, Education and Training, Software Engineering, Data Analysis, Cyber Security, Product Design, and Digital Content marketing.

A new personal loan scheme will be introduced to cover the initial cost of recruitment and travel for those who are selected for foreign employment.



- **EMPOWERING YOUTH FINANCIALLY**

New ICT Clusters will be introduced covering all divisions to support the youth with education, training and access to deliver ICT services to foreign clients.

Tariffs on internet connectivity will be immediately revised as an essential service needed for the above jobs.

A personal loan scheme will be introduced for the youth to buy computers and other essential hardware.

- **TOURISM BOOSTER**

A Special Tourism Promotion Project will be launched with the priority of increasing the foreign revenue earned through tourism, which is essential for economic stabilisation.

Katunayake and Mattala airports will facilitate the above through essential management changes.

Both airports will provide additional facilities to attract the popular Budget Airlines.

Low-interest loans will be introduced specially for people working in the travel, tourism and leisure sectors to develop their businesses.

Homestay Tourism will be promoted with financial support attached to training.

Tourist Visa duration will be extended to six months.

- **PROFESSIONAL PUBLIC SERVICES**

An Integrated ICT system will be implemented across all public services thereby reducing the time wastage, cost of travel and unnecessary paperwork when obtaining essential public services from birth certificates to death certificates.

Migrant workers will be able to renew their passports within a week after introducing printing facilities at key Sri Lankan embassies.

- **UNINTERRUPTED MEDICINE SUPPLY**

Current shortages of medicines and medical supplies will be resolved promptly so that all patients island-wide will receive essential healthcare services without delays.

- **FAST-TRACKING INVESTMENTS**

A special investment facilitation scheme will be implemented to secure quick investments exceeding US\$ 250,000. A special Golden Visa scheme will be offered to such investors.

- **PERFORMANCE MONITORING SYSTEM**

All the above short-term relief projects will be implemented, monitored and continuously improved by a Special Project Force composed of members of parliament and state officials under the direct supervision of the President.



NAMAL VISION

INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT MODEL

State Priorities

National Interests
Economic Growth
Social Progression
Environmental Sustainability

Innovation

State Sector
Agriculture Sector
Manufacturing Sector
Service Sector

Investment

Entrepreneurship
Human Resources
Research and Development
Infrastructure

Freedoms

Economic Freedom
Political Freedom
Cultural Freedom
Religious Freedom

Most of the development work in this country fell short because of a lack of integration with other related sectors and stakeholders. Namal Vision is built on Integration. Therefore, it is called the Integrated Development Model.

This policy programme is developed based on the above Integrated Development Goals with specific and time-based targets, and with innovation strategies to achieve them in the short-term, mid-term and the long-term.

The main goal of the Integrated Development Model is to realise the State Priorities. To do that we follow a strategic innovation approach. And to drive that innovation we need a strategic Investment Framework. Individual Freedoms must be secured and are in turn strengthened through the fulfilment of the Integrated Development Model.



1. STATE PRIORITIES



1.1 NATIONAL INTERESTS

Sri Lanka is a Free, Sovereign and Independent Democratic Socialist Republic. In other words, the sovereignty of the state lies with its people.

Whether you are a Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim, Malay, Burgher, or Vedi, every citizen of the republic shares equal ownership and right to rule this state.

We strongly believe that all development plans and programmes must necessarily aim to protect the national interests of the republic.

- **PROTECTION OF THE UNITARY STATE**

During the Mahinda Chinthana Decade, separatist terrorism was defeated, and the age-old unitary state of the republic was preserved. However, there are still some separatist political groups acting against the republic. As it has always been, our main policy is to protect the republic from such dangers by implementing all necessary security measures.

- **A LIFE WITHOUT FEAR**

As much as we secure the republic, we must also ensure the internal security of the state. Our policy is to take all necessary measures to protect the people so that they can live without fear.

All state intelligence and security forces will undergo a complete review, and any weaknesses identified will be promptly resolved. Suitable personnel will be appointed to relevant positions and the safety of the citizens as well as the foreigners in Sri Lanka will be assured.

We will strictly not allow any form of suppression, humiliation or violence against any ethnic, religious, or political groups.

All possible actions will be taken to prevent violence against women or children, while the law will be upheld strictly and promptly in all such cases.

Zero tolerance policy will be applied in the events of terrorism, the underworld and narcotics.

- **EQUALLY FRIENDLY YET NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN POLICY**

Located at a strategically important position along the naval and air routes connecting the global East and West, foreign states have always affected our country in many ways. And as a relatively small economy exposed to the global economy, we are also affected by the international market dynamics.

As always, our policy will be to stand independent without aligning ourselves with any foreign state or global camp but keep equally friendly international relations with all states.

Any attempt by any foreign state to intervene in our internal affairs will be promptly prevented thereby preserving our independence.

- **PROTECTING REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY**

The equal sovereignty held by the citizens of the republic is practically realised through Representative Democracy. It is done by electing representatives to the legislature and the executive institutions in free and fair elections.

The culture of election corruption and post-election violence which existed before 2005 was brought to an end during the Mahinda Chinthana Decade, thereby protecting the franchise of the citizens. Our policy is to strengthen that freedom even more.

- **PROTECTING THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS**

The Constitution is the social contract which enforces the sovereignty of the people, including human rights. Therefore, we are all bound to protect the Constitution.

Any person or group that has been found guilty of violating constitutional rights will be brought to justice by upholding the rule of law.

- **PROTECTING AND NURTURING THE BUDDHA SASANA**

Our civilisation which has a historical development of over two and a half millennia was founded upon the principles of Buddha Dharma. Noble values such as equal kindness to all animals, tolerance in both happiness and sadness, truthfulness in all cases and even the principles of governance such as "Dasa Raja Dharma" are all imparted to us through Buddha Sasana.

The historical heritage that marvels the visitors and the philosophical knowledge base of the Theravada tradition was gifted to the world through the Buddha Sasana.

We shall respect the freedom to hold any religious belief by any citizen not just as a constitutional clause but also by the Bauddha principle. We are bound to protect the religious freedom of all citizens.



To protect and nurture the Buddha Sasana, we plan to enrich the young monks with Bauddha Philosophy and proficiency in English, French, German, Korean, and Italian languages in addition to the oriental languages as well as with Information and Communications Technology. We believe that this is the way to take the Buddha Dharma to the future world. We plan to train 5,000 monks in the first phase.

Every temple will be completed with the essential facilities while a special medical insurance scheme has been planned for the elderly monks who have dedicated their lives to the Sasana. There will also be a special programme to support the parents of the monks.

Efforts will be made to control the threats to the Tripitaka Dharma and protect the scripture of Sri Saddharma for future generations.



1.2 NEW ECONOMIC LEAP

Below are our policy targets to stabilise the economy and bring about long-term economic growth during the next decade.

- **GDP TARGET**

Our target for the next decade is to raise Sri Lanka's Gross Domestic Product to over US\$ 180 billion. Accordingly, the Per Capita GDP is expected to cross the US\$ 8,000 boundary.

The agriculture sector contribution to the GDP will be increased to 10%, while we expect the manufacturing sector contribution to move to 25%. The largest contribution to the GDP of 65% is planned from the services sector in the next decade.

- **ACHIEVING POSITIVE TRADE BALANCE**

The difference between the export income and the import expenditure has not been positive under any government since 1977. Our policy aims to bring it to a positive value within the next decade.

- **STRONG FOREIGN RESERVES**

We will raise the currently depleted foreign reserves to be sufficient for more than six months of imports to maintain a stable economy and to face future emergencies.

- **GOVERNMENT REVENUE UP - EXPENDITURE CONTROLLED**

Our policies are to maintain financial discipline to cover the annual deficit between the government income and expenditure and reduce wastage while transparently managing the budget approved at the beginning of the year.

While meeting state revenue targets we will gradually revise the indirect taxes on consumer goods and taxes on wages to provide relief to the people.

While increasing the number of individuals and businesses paying income tax, the existing number of different types of taxes will be reduced and a much simpler tax system will be introduced.

Government expenditures will be made public and will act to maximise efficiency from every rupee spent.



- **NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND**

A permanent Rupee Savings Reserve will be built to face events of national emergencies. A certain percentage of the annual income will be allocated to this fund.

- **DEBT-SERVICING ECONOMY**

Our policy target is to gradually reduce public debt to 80% of GDP by building an economy capable of repaying all types of loans as quickly as possible.

A country with a small economy like ours has to borrow in a planned manner for development activities that the people expect. However, such developments should essentially accrue benefits to the people. People have already received significant benefits from the infrastructure built during the Mahinda Chinthana Decade. Our policy is to continuously develop those assets and generate benefits more effectively.

- **STABLE RUPEE**

Our policy is to maintain the rupee at a stable value against the dollar through the growth of GDP, remittances, and tourism earnings along with effective management of the trade balance and foreign debt.

- **SOLUTION TO UNEMPLOYMENT**

The sustainable solution to the economic crisis is to provide high-paying job opportunities to our workforce. The lowest unemployment rate in our history (4%) was recorded during the Mahinda Chinthana Decade. Job creation and workforce training is one of our key economic policies for the next decade.

Priority will be given to provide jobs in highly demanded sectors such as but not limited to Health, Construction, Education and Training, Software Engineering, Data Analytics, Cyber Security, e-commerce, Product Design, Digital Design Marketing, and to provide tax concessions and investment facilities for job-creating businesses and relevant training institutions.

Our target is to reduce the number of unemployed people in the labour force to less than 2%, while not letting the underemployed rate reach higher than a low single digit. Arrangements will be made to provide job opportunities to all the graduates.

Since one of our priorities is to increase the remittance income and to give Sri Lankan workers the global experience, we will prioritise directing them to high-level foreign jobs. Also, arrangements will be made for internationally recognised skills certifications necessary for local jobseekers to secure jobs abroad.

- **INFLATION AT LOWER SINGLE DIGIT**

The YoY economic growth rate will be maintained at an average of 7%, while a comprehensive strategic action plan will be implemented to reduce the increase in cost of living.

- **POLICY RATES AT SINGLE DIGIT**

Our policy target is to maintain interest rates at a single-digit value through budget deficit management and the growth of GDP.



1.3 AMONG THE TOP 50 IN SOCIAL PROGRESSION

The internationally recognised method to measure the social development of a country is the United Nations, Human Development Index (HDI).

HDI is based on three key social aspects namely, Health, Education and Standard of Living. Sri Lanka has always been ahead in terms of social development because of the free health and free education policies supplemented by wide social security programmes.

Sri Lanka is currently ranked 78th out of 193 countries and belongs to the "high" human development category in the world. The highest growth in this regard occurred during the Mahinda Chinthana Decade.

Our policy target is to enter the "Very High" category and be among the first 50 countries in the next decade. Our main social development policy targets are as follows:

- **HEALTHY AND SAFE LIVES**

A high value of life expectancy at birth, which is the main measure of people's health, shows that a country's health policy and its standards are at a high level.

The main reasons for the already high life expectancy in Sri Lanka are free health services, balanced work-life and the natural environment which is less polluted than many other countries.

It is our main policy to develop targeted public healthcare facilities in such a way that the life expectancy in Sri Lanka will grow from 74 to 76 years for men and 80 to 82 years for women in the next decade.

- **NEW AGE EDUCATION**

Proper education is essential for the development of a society. The ethical thinking required for a civilised society and the scientific knowledge, and technical skills required for economic growth are acquired through formal education and applied learning.

It is our main policy to update and expand opportunities for formal education by innovating syllabi, teaching methods and teaching media to achieve these objectives.

To achieve the HDI target we will work to increase the average time spent in formal education in school as well as after leaving school.

This does not mean that the time spent in school will be extended. This means increasing the total time spent in formal education even after leaving school and while working. The more time spent in formal education, the more successful individuals become.

- **DECENT LIVING STANDARD**

The third aspect of social development is the standard of living of the people. Access to clean and nutritious food, health, liveable housing, decent job opportunities, entertainment and security are the hallmarks of a high standard of living.

The higher the per capita Gross National Income, the higher the standard of living of the people. Therefore, in the next decade, efforts will be made to raise the per capita gross national income to the level of a developed country. This correlates with the above economic growth targets.



1.4 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The environment, including clean air, lush greenery, clean water, fertile soil and wildlife, is the beating heart of any country. Therefore, the environment should be protected and enhanced, while limiting pollution.

Just as human activities have negative effects on the environment, those effects will in turn have negative effects on humans.

Emissions from the burning of fossil fuels to generate energy for industry and transportation have increased the global temperature and drastically changed the climate. This is the reason for the irregularity of the natural rains. It has already caused major issues for traditional farming and people's everyday lives.

Therefore, economic growth and social development should be done while minimising the damage to ecological sustainability. If not, all development will be in vain like the house that you built getting swept away by the flood.

- **OPTIMISING NATURAL RESOURCES**

With a relatively small land area, Sri Lanka has limited natural resources. We so far haven't found any fossil fuels like coal, crude oil or gas. Therefore, it is our main policy to make more use of our natural resources such as water, sunlight and wind to generate the necessary energy to achieve the above economic and social development goals. This will gradually reduce our dependence on fossil fuel imports.

The soil is becoming barren in some areas due to over-cultivation for a long time. It is our policy to constantly maintain soil fertility to increase agricultural output essential for the above economic and social development goals.

Many farmers did not approve of the measures taken to prevent the use of synthetic fertiliser and agrochemicals that contain toxins harmful to the human body. We have also stated above that agricultural production will be increased for economic growth targets. Therefore, it may not be possible to prevent the use of synthetic chemicals at present.

There is a risk of rapid depletion of underground mineral resources such as gems, graphite, quartz, mineral sand, limestone, phosphate, and sea sand. Steps will be taken to carry out mining industries in a more formal and environmentally friendly manner so that these resources can be maintained over a long period.

One of the most valuable natural resources on the surface of Sri Lanka is our forest cover. It is one of the reasons for the high health status of the people as it contributes to the clean air which we all breathe. Therefore, our policy is to optimise the already used lands more efficiently without clearing more forests simply for the sake of economic growth.

- **MINIMAL ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE**

We have stated above that industrial production will be increased as per the economic growth targets. This will increase the production of industrial waste which will pollute the environment even more.

Therefore, investment priority will be given to innovations that can minimise the solid, liquid and gaseous waste emitted by industries.

Due to plastic waste, the rivers, canals, dams, and oceans around the country have been heavily polluted. As a result, the water has become unsuitable not only for human consumption but also for marine animals. As a result, tourism attraction is also lost, adversely affecting the economy.

Therefore, investments will be made in innovative enterprises that can produce environmentally friendly substitutes for plastics, and in innovative waste management and recycling businesses.

- **ANIMAL WELFARE**

Animals also share the same Earth that humans live in. So, we recognise their right to the natural environment and will guarantee their rights.

It is our policy to protect endangered animals. Wildlife is a major tourist attraction in Sri Lanka. Therefore, economic and social activity will be done in such a way as not to harm the natural environment where those animals live.

Instead of putting animals' lives at risk, investments will be made in innovations that can solve the issue of crop damage from wild animals.

A joint mechanism with anti-cruelty organisations will be set up for the protection of free-living, abandoned and injured animals.

- **APPROVALS FOR DEVELOPMENT**

Investment-led development projects need to be implemented in the country for the economic growth expected by the people. Often the obstacle in such cases is the time and cost of environmental reports and approvals.

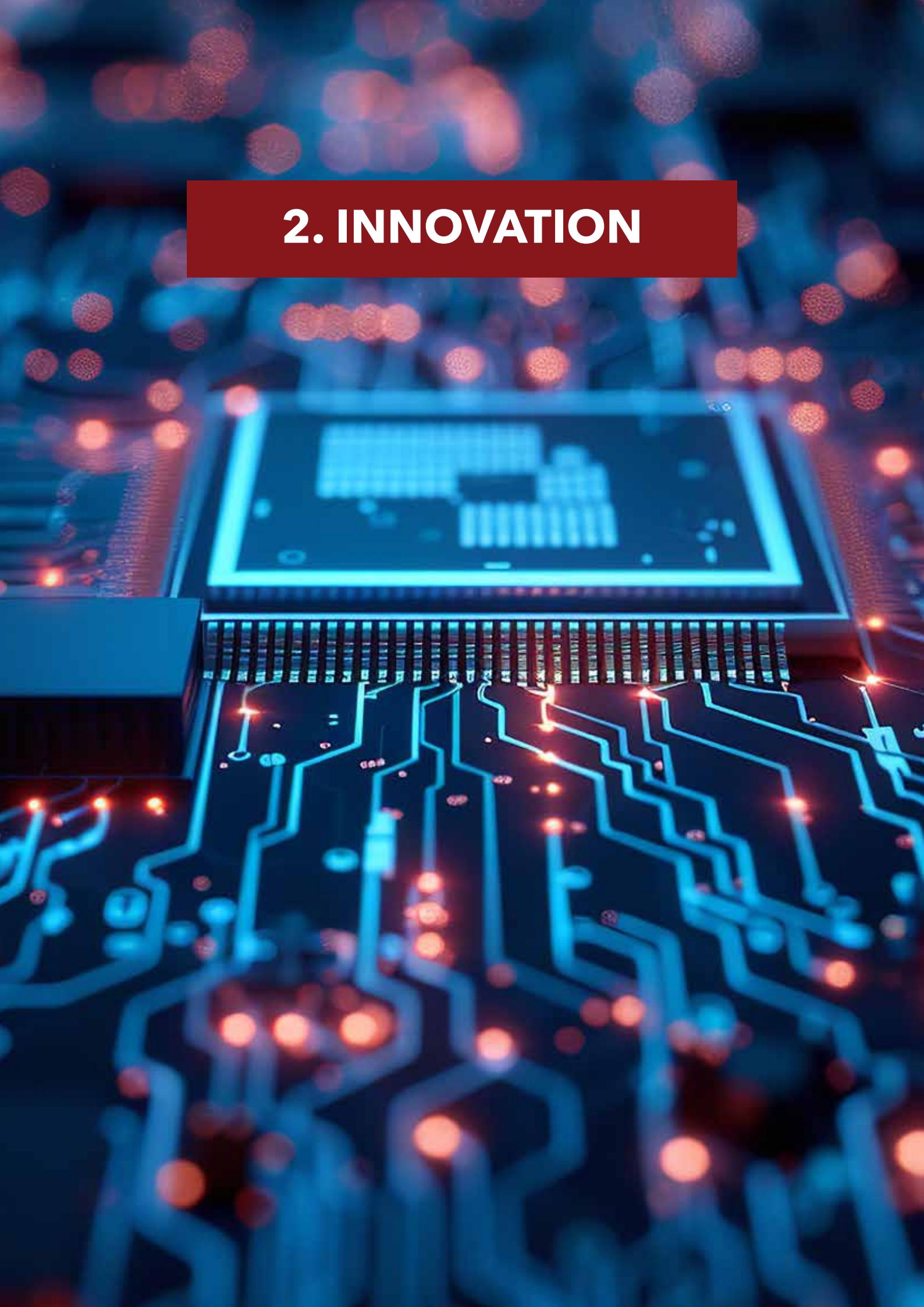
Therefore, relevant government services will be integrated using ICT in such a way that environmental standards and recommendations that can be practically met by investors are designed and made available in advance, which will then be checked and approved rapidly.

- **CARBON CREDIT**

Compared to some other countries, Sri Lanka has a low carbon footprint. We believe that Sri Lanka deserves specific benefits from the big polluters of the world. A special mechanism will be implemented in this regard at the diplomatic level.



2. INNOVATION



2.1 PUBLIC SECTOR OPTIMISATION

To achieve the goals of integrated development, the entire political system, including the public service, will be adapted to international standards and will be modernised in a manner suitable for the 21st century.

- **E-GOVERNANCE**

The easiest and fastest way to implement many different interrelated sectors is to connect them using an electronic system. It will provide facilities for real-time information exchange between government institutions in digital mode.

For that, modern and incorruptible software with international security standards will be developed and installed to cover the entire public service delivery network.

Public services will be made easier and faster by installing the Electronic National Identity Card system that includes biometric data. There will be no need to repeatedly provide the information of the concerned person to each institution, thereafter.

This will avoid the waste of time and money caused by people coming to Colombo from distant areas for every service requirement. The opportunity will be provided to receive those services in their own area, and within a year most of these services will be available to be received from the convenience at home.

Also, people will be able to get accurate and real-time data and information transparently about public affairs.

For the success of this process, public servants will be trained, and their services will be made technologically efficient.

- **NO SALE OF STATE ENTERPRISES**

It is not our policy to sell public assets including state enterprises. It is our policy to create profits and benefits for the people and workers by innovating and streamlining the processes of state-owned lands, natural resources and enterprises.

For that, Entrepreneurial Executive Boards will be appointed to carry out planned organisational change projects with specific targets.

Facilitation will be provided to coordinate the local private sector for the necessary capital and technical support.



- **END OF FRAUD AND CORRUPTION SLOGAN**

Some people have been making accusations for a long time that there is fraud and corruption in government administration and public service. But it seems that they only misuse it as a political slogan without actually working to prove the allegations. It only hinders the prevention of real fraud and corruption.

Therefore, an ICT-based procurement system of international standards, an open and competitive bidding system, a modern tax system and a formal investment mechanism in line with the corporate sector will be set up with full transparency. The methods will be developed as appropriate for each sector. Necessary amendments and new laws will be passed for this purpose.

A parliamentary committee consisting of MPs from the main opposition political parties will be formed to scrutinise and certify all proposed capital expenditures before approving them. This will prevent fraud or corruption before it happens.

- **FORENSIC AUDIT OF ALL LOANS**

A forensic audit of all the loans taken for infrastructure and human development in the past will be undertaken and the report will be openly published.

This will include the long-term development loans taken at low interest from multilateral organisations such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, and the bilateral loans taken at low interest from countries such as India, Japan and China.

Also, a forensic audit will be conducted on how the money obtained through International Sovereign Bonds at high interest was used, and that report will also be openly published.

- **STATE BALANCE SHEET**

The market value of the physical and human resources developed thus far and the public money, loans, grants and direct investments that were used for such developments will be assessed to prepare a Balance Sheet for the State.

Thereby, people will get an up-to-date understanding of the assets and liabilities of the state.

- **HIGH-QUALITY PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

The public administrative service is one of the fundamental pillars on which the success of a state depends. It will be modernised according to international standards.

An ICT-based Public Service Performance Management System based on 360-degree feedback from the people, employees, and political leadership will be set up promptly.

All administrative service officers will be continuously trained to provide high-quality services to the people using modern technology.

Permanent Secretaries will be appointed for the necessary government bodies for the consistent implementation of these policies for a long period.

- **UNINTERRUPTED FREE HEALTHCARE**

A modern ICT system will be installed linking all government hospitals to provide high-quality healthcare services easily and efficiently.

Through this, information such as patient test reports and drug prescriptions will be formally and securely filed and can be accessed by the doctors at any time using the Electronic National Identity Card.

This will avoid queues and congestion caused by frequent visits to the hospital.

Under the "Active Nation" programme, sports will be promoted to improve the physical fitness of school and university students as well as public and private sector employees.

Drug production, procurement and distribution will be completely transformed, fraud, corruption and waste will be reduced, and medicines will be provided at affordable prices to the people.

Private hospital services often reduce the pressure on government healthcare. Therefore, taxes on health services will be revised accordingly thereby reducing the private healthcare charges.

In competitive lifestyles, there is a high tendency to develop mental illnesses such as stress. Therefore, mental health services will be expanded while promoting work-life balance.



- **CLEAN DRINKING WATER FOR ALL**

Every person has an equal right to clean drinking water. Sri Lanka has already made great progress in drinking water supply, but a comprehensive programme will be implemented to continuously meet the drinking water needs of every person living in any area under any weather conditions in the future.

- **STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN EDUCATION**

We aspire to create a balanced citizen through teaching subjects of Science, Technology, English, Mathematics, Mother Language, Religion, Arts and Entrepreneurship.

All education syllabi in primary, secondary and tertiary sectors will be reviewed within one year and upgraded to suit the market and social needs of today and future world. All these activities will be done quickly and at a low cost using ICT.

A "Smart Education" methodology which also uses Artificial Intelligence will be introduced from school to university.

All schoolteachers, university lecturers and career counsellors will receive continuous professional training. An ICT-based system will be introduced to manage their performance, and an additional bonus will be added to the salary based on their measured target achievements.

Both public and private schools will be subjected to international standardisation.

The field of professional training and skills development will be further strengthened to meet international employment qualification requirements.

A university development programme will be implemented to bring Sri Lanka's state universities to the top of the international rankings, and the university courses will be adjusted to suit the global job market to resolve the issue of unemployed graduates.

A National Higher Education Commission will be set up to regulate state and non-state universities and other degree-granting institutions to maintain the standard of all degree courses.

A special system will be implemented under the Ministry of Education to regulate large-scale private tuition-class education.

- **INNOCENT CHILDREN**

Children are the future heirs of the nation. They shape the future of our country. Therefore, our irrevocable responsibility today is to provide the children with balanced nutrition, a sound mentality, a winning personality and a virtuous character.

Arrangements will be made to provide Triposha and necessary vitamins to pregnant mothers and newborn children through the village child and maternity clinic.

Children from low-income families will be provided with a subsidy for preschool education through Samurdhi.

Mothers working abroad, fathers being drunk or addicted to drugs, and parents divorcing or living apart, leaving their children helpless and insecure, is a growing tragedy in the country. A Foster Parent system will be introduced to provide the necessary care and facilities to such children.

Donors living in the country and abroad will be encouraged to provide monthly support to such children. With such aid, a closely monitored work assignment will be implemented in which the mothers of the Samurdhi families who volunteer in the respective villages will be entitled to a stipend for preparing food for and taking care of the children.

The school lunch programme will be expanded to children of all ages.

- **WOMEN TO THE FOREFRONT**

A programme will be implemented to allow every woman who wants to earn income but is not engaged in a permanent job. Women will be given priority for small and medium-scale industries and food manufacturing industries. Women will be given equal opportunities for direct and indirect income generation programmes in the production zones that will be developed near their village.

A hotline number and a mobile application will be introduced to call when a woman is in danger or trying to get help including psychological counselling.

- **ARMED FORCES AND POLICE**

The responsibility and obligation of the armed forces, police and civil defence forces is to protect the constitution and democratic institutions of the state. It is our policy to provide them with the leadership and facilities they need to do their service without any inconvenience.



For that, all military and police stations in the country will be modernised and hostel facilities will be improved. The armed forces headquarters built by us will be completed.

At least one female police officer will be positioned for each village and 10,000 new policewomen will be recruited for this purpose.

A museum and a library will be established for future generations to learn about the humanitarian war against terrorism that hindered the development of this country for 30 years. It will be open to local as well as foreign tourists.

Modern knowledge and training of international standards will be continuously imparted to enhance efficiency in all security forces.

A modern ICT-based methodology and system will be established to control traffic violations. An application will be introduced so that fines can be paid at the scene of the offence.

- **FOR THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

Brothers and sisters with special needs living in our society will be provided with all essential facilities, income-generating opportunities and equal treatment as per international standards.

- **NEW MEANING FOR SAMURDHİ**

The Samurdhi programme, which provides financial relief to low-income earners, will continue as before with improvements.

A special community programme will be implemented at the village level, involving the Samurdhi receivers with tailored benefits.

The outstanding salary issues and other problems of the Samurdhi Development Officers, who contribute greatly to the strengthening of the Samurdhi Movement, will be resolved immediately.

- **RESPECTING THE RETIRED STATE EMPLOYEES**

Sri Lanka's population is ageing rapidly. To achieve the above development goals, an integrated programme will be implemented to supplement the young workforce with the able retired community.

A Voluntary Service Pool will be established where senior citizens who can continue serving will be entitled to a monthly stipend. Depending on the residence of its members, the opportunity will be given to perform public support services or similar community services in government institutions frequented by the public.

The pension scheme will be enhanced to match the current inflation rates. Higher interest than the market average interest on their fixed deposits will be given to all senior citizens, while the current insurance schemes and other privileges will also be increased.

- **MODERN DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

The Meteorological Department will be equipped with the latest ICT services and other technologies for accurate forecasting which is essential to reduce the loss of life and property due to floods and landslides.

All the necessary facilities will be provided in advance to the areas where a risk of natural disaster is identified.

- **YOUTH-LED SOCIAL INNOVATION**

A community of young people will be organised who can create innovative solutions for Sri Lanka's social issues and have the interest and commitment to take those solutions to society.

This group of volunteers will implement unique programmes such as increasing the political participation of youth, implementing the active nation programme, environmental protection projects, acting on animal safety, and developing of positive attitude among the youth.

This community that will innovatively solve economic, social and environmental problems from the national level to the grassroots level of the village and city will be connected with international youth organisations to gain international knowledge and experience.

A contributory savings scheme will be introduced to cover the cost of their wedding ceremony which is one of the special dreams of the youth.



2.2 TRANSFORMATION OF THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

The primary sector of the economy including agriculture, fisheries, livestock and forestry will be transformed to produce US\$ 18 billion per year over the next decade.

- **AGRO-MODERNISATION**

Water, seeds and fertiliser will be provided to cultivate all arable land.

By setting a guaranteed price scheme for grains including paddy, the farmer's return on investment will be secured.

Modern technical methods that can increase yields will be introduced to all fields of cultivation including continuous training on their use.

Farmer Cooperatives will be empowered to manage the entire process from the production and supply of high-yielding seeds to the sale of crops.

The division between major and minor export crops used in the past is no longer relevant today. The reason for this is that the foreign exchange brought by crops such as cinnamon, pepper, and cardamom are closely competing with the major export crops such as tea, coconut and rubber. Therefore, such crops will be reclassified as major export crops. Accordingly, all the subsidies and other privileges given to the main export crops will be given to those crops as well.

Farmers will be advised in advance on the quantities of vegetables and fruits to be produced according to the market demand and seasons to mitigate the wastage of crops and to maintain stable prices.

Surplus harvests will be identified, and supply chains will be connected for export. Cold and dry storage facilities will be developed for this purpose.

A permanent solution to the wage dispute between the tea estate owners and the workers will be provided with the agreement of all parties.

Facilities including land will be provided to double the coconut and king coconut harvests in the next decade and arrangements will be made for export after meeting the local requirement.

Rubber cultivation and production will be maintained steadily.

Cut flowers and betel leaf production will be doubled in the next decade and export support will be provided.

The contribution of the agricultural research and production support officials will be enhanced by equipping them with ICT skills and tools.

Crops will be imported only as per the need to maintain a reasonable price that is affordable to the people while giving priority to local production.

Investments will be made in agricultural innovations that can achieve high yields without polluting soil and water.

- **OCEAN ECONOMY REVOLUTION**

Determining the maritime boundary of Sri Lanka in 2007 was a great achievement for us. The United Nations has accepted the request of President Mahinda Rajapaksa regarding the extension of our country's sea boundary and has calculated that the extent of the ocean we are entitled to is more than twenty times the land of Sri Lanka. Efforts will be made to resolve this pending matter as soon as possible.

Marine pharmaceutical products, fish and marine plant-based industries will be encouraged with strategic investments.

The canoes and boats still used by most of our fishing community for short-distance fishing are unsafe. Therefore, in-country manufacturing of vessels with communication and storage facilities will be supported for the convenience of fishermen.

The Ocean University of Sri Lanka will be used to offer international standard training courses and degrees in marine engineering technology aimed at the shipping and logistics job market.

Natural currents and fisheries will be continuously studied, and a new map of fish resources and seaways will be created.

A sales-oriented programme will be implemented to find new markets to face the challenges that arise regarding the sale of fish harvest in the international market.

An investment loan scheme for the development of fish-related value-adding industries such as mackerel, dried fish and pickle will be provided especially to women entrepreneurs.

To develop the freshwater fish industry in the country, a comprehensive programme will be implemented using the inland reservoirs.

- **ANIMAL INDUSTRIES**

Large-scale industries raising animals for milk, eggs and meat will be encouraged to be more humane in their process.

Backyard rearing of poultry and other animals will be facilitated as an opportunity to earn an additional monthly income, especially for the village households.

Maize cultivation for animal feed will be expanded.



2.3 MANUFACTURING SECTOR VALUE CREATION

The production industries of the secondary sector of the economy will add a value of US\$ 45 billion per year to the country's economy in the next decade.

- **HIGH-PRECISION TECHNOLOGY MANUFACTURING**

Sri Lankan workers have a special talent for high-precision manufacturing. A policy and practical programme will be set up with international stakeholders and investors to utilise this capability to produce modern technology products for the global market.

The programme will integrate technology and investment facilities, global market access, and strategic international partners.

Small and medium-sized technology manufacturing industries that are already operating, such as electronics manufacturing, will be linked to create regional manufacturing clusters and provided with the necessary technology, investment and global market access to upgrade to high-precision products.

The necessary technology, investment and market facilities for the establishment and expansion of large-scale global manufacturing industries will be done by redesigning the local regulatory and legal frameworks to meet international requirements.

Priority will be given to this new manufacturing sector in achieving the above economic goals.

- **ENERGY PRODUCTION FOR EXPORT**

It is our policy to make Sri Lanka a regional centre for renewable energy export. Large-scale investments will be made to harness, store and export electricity produced from renewable energy sources such as hydro, solar, wind and green hydrogen to neighbouring countries.

- **CHEMICALS AND PHARMACEUTICALS TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS**

Necessary support will be provided to expand the production of international-grade chemicals using domestic and imported raw materials.

Investments will be made to develop Sri Lanka into a regional centre for pharmaceuticals and other health products manufacturing through automation technology adaptation.

- **SUSTAINABLE MINERAL INDUSTRIES**

Mining and extraction of underground natural resources such as gems, graphite, quartz, mineral sand, limestone, phosphate, sea sand etc. will be facilitated with the help of the most effective and modern technology which causes the least harm to the environment.

By adding value to domestic and imported minerals and selling them at a higher price in the international market, we will double the revenue of mineral-related products in the next decade.

- **CONSTRUCTION SECTOR BOOST**

Taxes on products required to immediately activate the lagging construction sector will be revised. The construction sector output over the next decade will be doubled.

The construction and development of Colombo Port City will be accelerated and prioritised as a project of national importance.

Construction of highways and other roads which are currently stalled will recommence immediately.

Priority will be given to more efficient construction materials and technologies.

Loan interest will be reduced for the construction of houses, offices and business premises.

- **FOOD AND BEVERAGE PRODUCT REVOLUTION**

Food and beverage production, one of Sri Lanka's main manufacturing sectors, will be set to grow by 50% in the next decade. We will facilitate the informal sector producing food and beverages to move into the formal economy.

Sri Lanka's traditional food industry will be promoted while research will be encouraged for new food and beverage products.

Fast food products based on rice and other cereals and methods of preserving vegetables and fruits will be encouraged.

The production of flavoured teas and local herbal drinks will be expanded.

Spices, oils and other plant extract production will be set to double in the next decade.

Local sugar production will be doubled, and facilities will be provided for coconut production aimed at the export market.



Research facilities, quality testing, approvals and certification procedures for food and beverage innovation will be streamlined and expedited.

International food manufacturing standards will be implemented across the sector with a focus on the export market and tourism.

- **OPTIMISATION OF APPAREL MANUFACTURING**

Huge investments have been made in Sri Lanka's apparel and textile industries for a long time. Therefore, all necessary steps will be taken to develop the sector and get the maximum benefits. Facilities will be provided to double the production of footwear and clothing in the next decade.

The government will provide facilities to reduce production costs while encouraging investors to develop related industries thereby creating new jobs and factories in different provinces of the country.

The quality of work and life of the apparel sector employees will be enhanced.

Investment will be provided for local textile manufacturing.

- **ECONOMIC ZONES ALONG THE EXPRESSWAYS**

New Manufacturing Zones will be built targeting areas with major entrances and exits for expressways to spread economic growth throughout the island.



2.4 INNOVATION IN THE SERVICE SECTOR

For Sri Lanka's GDP in the next decade, the tertiary sector will contribute US\$ 117 billion per year.

• TRAVEL, TRADE, TRANSIT CENTRE

One of our main strategies is to make Sri Lanka not just a destination, but one of the busiest tourist centres in the region. An advanced technological environment with modern facilities will be created to attract all types of travellers, travelling not only on holidays but also for business meetings and international conferences.

A high-quality promotional plan will be implemented to make Sri Lanka one of the world's most popular tourist destinations in the next decade.

With the end of the war, Sri Lanka became a paradise for foreign tourists. The Mahinda Chinthana target of 2 million passenger service per year was achieved by 2019 but drastically fell as a result of the Easter Sunday Attack. We will increase that number to 5 million travellers per year in the next decade. While increasing the number of tourist arrivals we will also increase the average time they spend in the country and increase the amount they spend during that time.

The Mattala International Airport was built because the Katunayake Airport would not be sufficient for the arrival of those additional tourists. Therefore, Mattala Airport will be developed as planned by attracting more tourists. A modern electronic system will be installed to facilitate and speed up the entire process from airport check-in to departure, and arrival to exit.

The necessary infrastructure will be improved to develop the marine tourism industry.

Special investment and credit facilities will be provided for the construction of large and small hotels and domestic accommodation facilities with the extra rooms needed for the above tourists.

In addition to the existing well-known destinations, 10 new tourist attractions and many new tourist experiences will be created across the island and facilities will be provided to organise international festivals and conferences.

Domestic flight services connecting Mattala and Jaffna Airports will be expanded to further match international flight schedules so that they can reach their destinations quickly.



Tourists will be encouraged to purchase goods by reimbursing the Value Added Tax on goods purchased at the time of departure.

A contributory pension scheme will be introduced for tour guides.

- FUTURE-PROOFING THE FINANCIAL SECTOR**

20-30% of the economy currently takes place outside of the banking system. It is unsafe for the entrepreneurs as well as the customers and is also harmful to the state economy. Therefore, we will introduce the necessary regulations and facilities to bring 90% of the total transactions into the banking system.

To reduce the use of coins and notes, bank cards and mobile wallets will be promoted.

Intelligence units will be deployed to detect fraudulent financial transactions. Fraudsters identified will be strictly prosecuted.

New investment programmes will be introduced for the development of rural entrepreneurship. The cooperative banking system will be strengthened with a focus on providing student loans and youth entrepreneurship credit facilities.

- HEALING HAVEN**

Sri Lanka will be developed into one of the world's leading health and wellness service centres. Public and private integrated investments will be made to build the world's most advanced private hospitals in the country.

Sri Lanka's private healthcare sector, which is already at a high standard, will be facilitated to provide services to foreigners in a more formal manner.

Sinhala Traditional Medicine and Ayurvedic Medicine, which have been healing people since time immemorial, will be promoted and brought to an international standard through strategic investment.

- EDUCATION SERVICES CENTRE**

We will develop Sri Lanka as a peaceful International Education Centre free from the dangers of escalating wars and conflicts spreading in the rest of the world by building state-of-the-art education facilities in some of the most beautiful areas in Sri Lanka.

Accordingly, Sri Lanka will be set to recruit more than 10,000 foreign students per year over the next decade.

We will also expand the residential facilities, recruit high-quality teaching staff and researchers from home and abroad and create a safe environment for foreign students.

By doing so, it will be possible to earn additional foreign revenue and reduce foreign currency leaving the country.

- **CREATING THE CREATOR ECONOMY**

Creating, editing and distributing audio-visual content to a large audience through various social media is a competitive global service sector today. Such content creators in Sri Lanka will be provided with regulatory and financial facilities to scale their services.

- **SRI LANKAN ARTS TO THE CULTURAL WORLD**

Art is a unique way of expressing the culture of a country. We will turn Sri Lanka into a Cultural Export Centre which nurtures our ancient art forms and takes them to the international market with modernity. We will support the development of Sri Lankan artists including songs, music, dance and acting to reach new global audiences.

Therefore, Sri Lankan artists will be able to gain international recognition and make their artworks of higher quality.

- **RETAIL TRADE REVAMP**

Steps will be taken to develop the FMCG and household appliances trades to a higher standard. For that, the Consumer Affairs Authority will be re-engineered to suit current and future needs.

Small shops and their supply chains will be supported with investment attached to training to grow their income.

Import restrictions and tariffs on clothing, footwear, fashion and jewellery will be revised to attract tourist customers by developing the trade to international standards.

The government services required for the promotion of land, houses, flats and vehicle trade will be formalised with the use of ICT systems.

All types of restaurants and entertainment services like movie theatres will be supported to be upgraded. Small restaurants will be facilitated with investments attached to training to bring them up to formal and hygienic standards.



Places like the Petah Market, Regional Economic Centres and Sati Pola will be renovated to a respectful standard for traders, workers and consumers.

Government regulations will be modernised to increase consumer confidence to promote e-Commerce.

A simpler and transparent tax system will be introduced for goods imported from abroad.

- **TRANSPORT SERVICES UPGRADATION**

The fact that the island-wide road network, including expressways built during the Mahinda Chinthana Decade, is still in good condition proves their highest quality.

But the transport service has not improved compared to the roads. It has been over 50 years since transportation was privatised, but private buses have yet to modernise.

Private buses are often seen being driven irresponsibly putting the passengers and the pedestrians at risk. The comfort of the passengers travelling in them is not up to the expected standards. This is a hindrance to a dignified standard of living.

Therefore, new licenses and credit facilities will be provided to gradually phase out old buses and import only modern and comfortable buses of international standards.

Licenses of errant bus drivers will be suspended, and new licenses will be issued only after proper counselling and driving training and testing.

A complete innovation will be done in the railways in the next decade. New trains will be deployed to double the productivity of the existing railways, and the train timetable and ticketing process will be done entirely through an ICT system.

Transport of goods on roads increases traffic congestion. Therefore, facilities will be provided for more use of railways for transportation of goods.

New railways will be built parallel to selected expressways.

Also, passenger and cargo transportation services will be expanded by connecting the seaports located around the island.

Sri Lanka will be further developed as an international maritime transport and service centre.

- **IT-BPM TO THE NEXT LEVEL**

With the rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI), traditional jobs in the IT and Business Process Management (IT-BPM) sector are rapidly changing.

Therefore, the local companies will be supported to transform into futuristic service product delivery modes built on Artificial Intelligence technology.

- **LEAP FORWARD SPORTS ECONOMY**

By developing Sri Lanka's sports as a service sector of international standards, it can be placed as a revenue-generating sector.

Therefore, facilities will be provided for the development of recreational sports, competitive sports and electronic sports as services.

A fair and systematic process will be introduced from the school level to the national level to produce professional and disciplined athletes and players who can win trophies and medals.

Thereby, creating an active population as well as sports personalities of international excellence.



3. INVESTMENT



All the above innovations require strategic investments to achieve the development goals of the next decade. Therefore, we will introduce a Public Private Integrated Investment mechanism in this regard.

An investment is not always an expense. An investment is any expenditure incurred to build an asset that can generate income in the future. For example, building expressways generates revenue. So, it is an investment.

Certain expenses are not investments. The expenses incurred for the day-to-day operations of an organisation do not generate income.

Therefore, it is important to distinguish between investments and expenses.

3.1 CAPITAL FOR ENTREPRENEURS

Inventions and Innovations alone don't become commercially successful enterprises. Entrepreneurship is the production of innovative goods and services to meet specific market needs.

The economy of any state develops because of their entrepreneurs. But they have to take risks for that.

Therefore, arrangements will be made to provide the necessary capital and other facilities for the development of local entrepreneurs. Integrated investment programmes will be introduced from startups to large-scale enterprises in targeted sectors.

In addition to commercial banks, LKR 10 billion of investments per annum will be done through cooperative banks in an enterprise development model.

Facilities will be provided for business creation between foreign and local entrepreneurs.

New Acts and facilities will be provided to increase investment opportunities through private equity investment as well as the stock market.

A Social Impact Investment Fund of LKR 1 billion will be introduced to support Social Entrepreneurs who solve social and environmental issues through entrepreneurial solutions. This will reduce the expenses borne by the government because the social enterprises solve part of the issues which otherwise the government will have to resolve.



Barriers to increasing foreign investment will be removed. Necessary mechanisms will be developed to make those investments transparently and formally.

Domestic enterprise products will be actively linked with international market supply chains.

3.2 HUMAN RESOURCE ENRICHMENT

For all the above developments, it is essential to continuously improve the human resources of this country.

Due to the decrease in the population growth rate in Sri Lanka, the youth community is decreasing rapidly compared to the aged community. This is a hindrance to the expansion of production capacity required to achieve the above economic goals.

Therefore, population growth will be properly managed, and investments will be made in nutrition and health to keep the population healthy for a long time.

A special programme will be introduced to protect professional dignity with incentives to get the services of essential experts for the country to meet the above development targets.

Investments will be made in developing all sports and physical fitness from the school level to the national level to produce healthy citizens of mind and body.

Investments will be made in programmes that can develop the formal education, skills and attitudes necessary for rapid economic growth.

Investments will be made in the development of religious and cultural aspects essential for a dignified standard of living.

A special programme will be introduced to make the incarcerated workers contribute more to the economic process.

3.3 RESEARCH FOR COMMERCIAL VALUE

Scientific research should be done constantly to innovate for the sake of development. Therefore, investments will be made in research for new products that can be successful in target market segments and for upgrading existing products to a higher standard.



Investments will be made to create a thriving research culture that will link private-sector research institutions in addition to universities and government research institutions.

The intellectual property rights for the new knowledge and products generated by such research will be available to the government in proportion to the investments which will in turn earn consistent revenue.

3.4 INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE

Both physical and soft infrastructure will be developed for local, regional and international interconnectivity.

Katunayake, Mattala, Jaffna, Ratmalana and other Airports, as well as Colombo, Hambantota, and Trincomalee Sea Ports, will be developed over the next 15 years to service 80 million passengers per year.

The transport system will be improved and completed to international standards including high-quality sanitary facilities.

Investments will be made in housing construction following the policy of providing safe housing to every citizen.

Priority will be given to the planning of towns and villages, the design and construction of new towns, and the construction of offices and factories related to the above economic targets.

All government buildings constructed in the next decade will be designed and constructed per advanced techniques to suit modern and future climate conditions, with minimum maintenance costs and in an environmentally friendly manner.

Through the integration of all such constructions, the wastage of resources and time will be minimised.

Investments will be made to meet the country's energy needs from renewable sources so that electricity can be continuously supplied to reduce fuel imports and environmental pollution.

Investments will be made in modern software and hardware to enable them to be installed and run safely and continuously to bring public sector services up to international standards.



4. FREEDOM



Freedom is to think, speak and act as one pleases. Every citizen has equal freedom. Therefore, while enjoying one's freedom, one should do it in such a way that it does not interfere with the freedom of another.

People should be given the freedom to make all the above developments, innovations and investments successfully. And through those developments, the freedom of the people will be strengthened in return.

4.1 EXPANDING ECONOMIC FREEDOM

The fastest growth of Sri Lanka's economic freedom took place after the end of the war against terrorism during the Mahinda Chinthana Decade.

Our policy is to expand economic freedom to allow any citizen to work, produce and consume goods and services, and invest their wealth, as they please to their best abilities.

To achieve the above-integrated development targets, Sri Lankans living in this country and abroad should actively contribute to the economy. Structural, regulatory and legal barriers to do so will be removed and reorganised to suit the modern world.

In the public sector as well as in the private sector, market monopolies will be minimised, and efforts will be made to create a market in which labour, goods and capital are exchanged fairly and competitively.

State and legal protections for individuals' physical property and intellectual property will be strengthened in line with international standards.

Over the next decade, the tax burden will be gradually reduced to a lower single digit. Also, to protect the local entrepreneur, tariffs and other restrictions imposed on imports and exports will be minimised as far as possible and the exchange of goods and services will be facilitated.

State regulation will be streamlined by removing obstacles for entrepreneurs to start new businesses and develop them rapidly.

The freedom of workers will be further expanded by removing regulatory and legal barriers to deliver the maximum productivity of the country's labour resources.

Domestic and foreign investments will be promoted while minimising regulatory and legal barriers.

The government will refrain as much as possible from controlling the economic process of the state and regulation will be strengthened to protect the national interests, individual rights and business freedoms.



4.2 PROTECTING POLITICAL FREEDOM

Every citizen of the republic has equal sovereignty. It cannot be given up. Accordingly, every citizen should have an equal right to have an opinion about the affairs of the republic, be able to express their opinions freely and be able to join a political party which represents their views. This is what we call political freedom.

But as has happened from time to time in history, there are cases where some terrorist groups suppress other people's political freedom. For example, some organised groups operate repressively on social media to prevent holding and expressing opposing political opinions. Also, some people operate to destroy the political freedom of individuals by subjecting them to verbal threats, physical violence and torture.

This uncivilised trend, which is not compatible with the modern world, will be immediately and permanently controlled and the political freedom of every citizen of the country will be protected.

The freedom of speech of every citizen will be protected and the rule of law will be upheld so that no other citizen's freedom of speech or any other freedom is impeded.

Among the various and divergent views held by the inhabitants on the affairs of the republic, the most successful proposition will be chosen by free and fair vote, after peaceful and rational debate. This is democracy.

Efforts will be made immediately to eradicate terrorism, which tries to achieve its political goals by terrorising the population.

Also, the constitution which legitimates the democratic systems and structures of the republic will be strengthened and all necessary steps will be taken to protect the political freedom of the people.

Political education from pre-school to university will be introduced into the curricula.

Political repressions seen in some educational and service institutions will be ended forever and the ability of every citizen to fully enjoy their political freedom will be guaranteed.

4.3 CARING FOR CULTURAL FREEDOM

No matter how much economic growth is achieved, if there is no society with cultural values in it, it will be of no use.

People of any nationality including Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim, Malay, Burgher, Vedi living in the Republic have equal freedom to hold and practice their cultural identities.

Also, those who hold one cultural identity will not be allowed to discriminate against another cultural identity as low or high, so that the ceremonies and practices built on the cultural roots and beliefs of the respective communities can be carried out peacefully without disturbing the other communities.

Opportunities for intercultural interaction between the different cultures will be increased so that mutual understanding among different cultural communities can flourish. We believe that beautiful cultural innovations will be born through such human interactions.

Linguistic and other structural barriers that may interfere with such interconnection will be minimised as much as possible using ICT.

Moreover, artistic and performance opportunities will be created to showcase the cultural beauty of the Republic to the world.

4.4 RESPECTING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Every citizen of the Republic shall have equal freedom to hold, embrace, practice, alone or in association with others, Bauddha, Hindu, Catholic, Christian, Islamic or any other religion, faith or belief.

The spiritual development of man is greatly supported by religious teachings. And the moral virtues to be followed for the common good while living in a society are taught through religions.

But there are also cases where certain religious teachings incite their followers to act against the other faiths. Therefore, efforts will be made to ensure that religious teachings will always be in the best interest of the individual and society.

Moreover, a free environment will be created where every citizen can gain a broad understanding of various religious beliefs and philosophies by providing a basic education about various religious teachings to every citizen as well as through peaceful and respectful conversations.

Due to the competition required to achieve the above economic growth goals, psychological pressure will be created in individuals. The social mission of religious places such as temples, shrines and churches and their clergy are highly important to face such pressures and to withstand the world realities of good and evil, shame and praise, profit and loss, happiness and sorrow experienced by all human beings.

Therefore, necessary measures will be taken to protect and improve those religious places.



NEXT STEP

This document contains the development targets for Sri Lanka and the strategies to achieve them. To make this a reality on the ground, we all must work together with the same determination for the betterment of our country.

Specific programmes will be implemented for each goal and strategy based on this Integrated Development Model. It will be done at the level of ministries and relevant government agencies. We look forward to your active participation in these programmes.

We will never allow another war to break out in our homeland again. And we will never again allow an economic crisis to occur under any circumstances. I respectfully ask you to vote for me, and have faith in our party's ability and my vision of building a developed country for you.

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Namal Rajapaksa

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Namal Rajapaksa



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