



Southern Provincial Council Representatives and Officials



Provincial Needs Assessment 2008

Programme on Strengthening the Provincial Council System

With the recent presentation of the APRC, and recognizing the requirement for timely involvement in the national dialogue on 20 years of the 13th Amendment and devolution of power to the provinces, Outreach Unit began work on two parallel programmes on the theme of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, Provincial Councils and Devolution of Power, during the period March –May 2008. This programme was supported by Development Alternatives Inc (USAID).

A preliminary round of One Day Regional Meetings was held at each of the Provincial Council auditoriums with the attendance of the Chairman, Chief Ministers, Provincial Ministers, Chief Secretaries and when possible of the Governor, with the purpose of outlining the concept of this programme, garnering support and participation of Provincial Council officials, and clarifying logistics for the proposed residential workshops.

Participant suggestions were gathered regarding the areas to be addressed at the planned workshops, resource persons required and ways of making the process productive to stakeholders, and dates were fixed for the residential workshops.

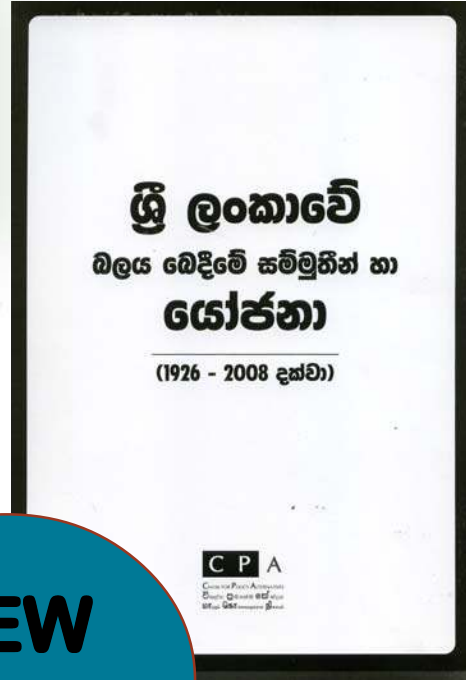
<i>PG 1</i>	<i>PG 2</i>	<i>PG 3</i>	<i>PG 3</i>	<i>PG 4</i>
<i>Strengthening the Provincial Council System</i>	<i>New Publications at CPA Papers written</i>	<i>CPA in the NEWS</i>	<i>A Glance at Programmes</i>	<i>Calendar of Events</i>

LIBRARY NEWS

Whats new in the world of books.



the 13th Amendment and Devolution of Power



Agreements and Proposals for Devolution of Power in Sri Lanka (1926-2008)

NEW TITLES

Released in March 2008 this is the 28th Wave of this Public Opinion Survey, offering data for a comparative study on changing public opinion on key issues, ranging from perceptions on war and peace to current political developments.



“Sinhala Support for the Governments Military Campaign Strong: PCI,” Daily Mirror 30th March

According to the results of the survey, Sinhala support for the Government’s military campaign continues to be strong whilst their support for peace talks has dropped to 16.6% President Rajapaksa’s strong popularity amongst the Sinhalese also remains unchanged, with high levels of approval for his handling of the war. His approval ratings are however affected by dissatisfaction expressed by all ethnic groups with regards to his management of the economy

Satisfaction on NGO performance was another issue covered and majorities in the Sinhala (46.4%), Tamil (85.3%) and Muslim (52.3%) communities are satisfied with the work done by NGOs toward national development. Whereas in the case of NGO work with regards to human rights, a majority of the Sinhala community (39%) express dissatisfaction while 83.2% of the Tamils, 33.9% of the Up Country Tamils and 49.4% of the Muslims express satisfaction.

“National Security or Human Rights” by Bhavani Fonseka & Pradeep Peris *Nation Special*
Mar 2

“More Unconvincing Excuses: the Continuing Violation of the Seventeenth Amendment” - Rohan Edrisinha Mar 4th *Daily Mirror*

“The Carnage Continues...”- Dr Saravanamuttu March
LMD

“Elections and Amendments : Democratic Governance Under Threat”-Dr Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, Mar 05
Morning Leader

“There was no democratic election in the East, but a Pillayans Election” by Sunanda Deshapriya Mar 26th *Lakbima*

“the Message of Muhamalai” by Dr P.Saravanamuttu, April 30th, *Morning Leader*

Statements & Press Releases

Report on the Fact Finding Mission to Jaffna Feb 2008

http://www.cpalanka.org/research_papers/Jaffna_Report_CPA_INFORM_April_2008.pdf

Joint statement: Civil Society Solidarity with International Humanitarian Organisations

http://www.cpalanka.org/Statements/Civil_Society_Solidarity_with_International_Humanitarian_Organisations.pdf

Please email staff articles to chandrika@cpalanka.org



A GLANCE AT programmes

GACP's Budget Transparency project is funded by the **International Budget Project** which aims to increase public scrutiny of the Pradeshya Sabha level Budget Procedures. During

March and April 2008 two phases of this programme were carried out, involving firstly, sessions sensitizing elected members, and workshops for PS officials and citizens representing the Taxpayer in these selected areas. The main aim of these sessions was to emphasize the importance of ensuring transparency in the workings of Local Government Structures.

One of the main observations in most of these cases was the seemingly unlimited powers enjoyed by the Chairmen of these areas which meant that these officials dominated processes and rarely considered the right to a participatory approach in budgeting. In some cases



powers were monopolized so that not even the Vice Chairman was allowed to share in decision making. This could be because of the almost unlimited powers given by the **Pradeshya Sabha Act 15 of 1987** ,which

observation was included in a set of recommendations submitted to the Ministry of Local Governance towards improving Budget Accountability in Pradeshya Sabhas.

The International Budget Project was formed within the **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities** in 1997 to assist civil society to analyze and influence government budget processes, institutions and outcomes. The IBP is interested particularly in the impact of the budget on poor and low-income people in developing countries or new democracies. **The overarching aim of the project is to make budget systems more responsive to the needs of society and, accordingly, to make these systems more transparent and accountable to the public.**

● **March**

13th March

Preliminary Needs Assessment Meeting Sabaragamuwa Province

As initial groundwork for the USAID /DAI sponsored programme on - "*strengthening the Provincial Council System*", a team from Outreach Unit, CPA, traveled to Ratnapura to meet with officials of the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council, as well as to carry out a small scale assessment of regional citizens' views of the work of the Provincial Council.

18th March Preliminary Needs Assessment Meeting North Western Province

(As above)- venue North Western Provincial Council Kurunagala

25th March Preliminary Needs Assessment Meeting Southern Province

(As above)- venue Southern Provincial Council Galle

27th March Preliminary Needs Assessment Meeting Uva Province

(As above)- venue Uva Provincial Council, Badulla



Events @ the Centre

22nd -23rd March

Rohan Edrisinha spoke at a Jaffna Bar Association Workshop organized by The Asia Foundation. The workshop was held at Hotel Sapphire on 22nd & 23rd March 2008. Rohan spoke on the 22nd on *Tracing the History of the Language Issue in Sri Lanka*. Speakers included S. S. Wijayarathna, Chairman, Legal Aid Commission, Palitha Fernando P.C, Solicitor General, Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Education, C.V. Wigneswaran, Rauff Hakeem, M.P., Prof. Tissa Vitharana, Minister of Science & Technology and S.L. Gunasekera, Attorney-at-Law.

● **April**

2nd April Preliminary Needs Assessment -North Central Province

venue North Central Provincial Council, Anuradhapura

7th April Preliminary Needs Assessment-Central Province

venue Central Provincial Council, Kandy

8th April Preliminary Needs Assessment-Western Province

venue Western Provincial Council, Nugegoda

25th April

Meeting with ICSW Representative

Ms.Solveig Askjem, World President, International Council on Social welfare arrived in Sri Lanka to attend the Award Ceremony of South Asian Academy for Good Governance and visit the Community Development Research and Training Institute.

Outreach Unit organized a discussion of Civil Society leaders in Colombo on **25th April** to welcome Ms Askjem. Around 30 civil society participated in the meeting. Ms.Solveig Askjem spoke on ICSW activities relating to social welfare, Social Development and Social Justice..

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