

NATIONAL BUDGET

2024

FOR WHAT, FOR WHOM



Ministry of Finance,
Economic Stabilization and National Policies



Ministry of Finance,
Economic Stabilization and National Policies

NATIONAL BUDGET

2024 
FOR WHAT, FOR WHOM

November 2023

“What is
National Budget
2024, for what,
for whom?”

**It is a
simplified
version of
Government
Budget 2024**





Preparation of Annual Budget Estimates is a constitutional requirement (Article 148 -152 of the Constitution). The Annual Budget Estimates 2024, includes spending ceilings for each Ministries, Departments and Public Institutions during the year 2024 along with the proposed means of financing the expenditure. Estimates are presented in an accounting format and which is often too complex to the general public.

Therefore, the Department of National Budget intended to disseminate the information of the Government Budget in a simplified and less technical manner. With this effort, it is expected that the civil society can understand the government priorities and leads to ensure transparency and accountability in terms of resource allocation and its efficient utilization.

Instead of presenting estimates by Ministries, Departments and spending Heads, this publication mainly provides brief information on government expenditure for key projects / programmes by sectors. Further, the provisions for debt servicing and contingency services are not considered under sectors. **For easy reference, rupee figures of sectoral totals have been rounded off to the nearest billion and therefore, there may be slight discrepancies in tallying with the figures of the accounting format. Further, after the Budget Speech, this document will be updated including Budget Proposals.**



DEVELOPMENT PATH TO 2048

'By the year 2048, which marks 100 years of independence, the background for the new approach and new work order to make Sri Lanka a developed country will be prepared by these budget proposals.'

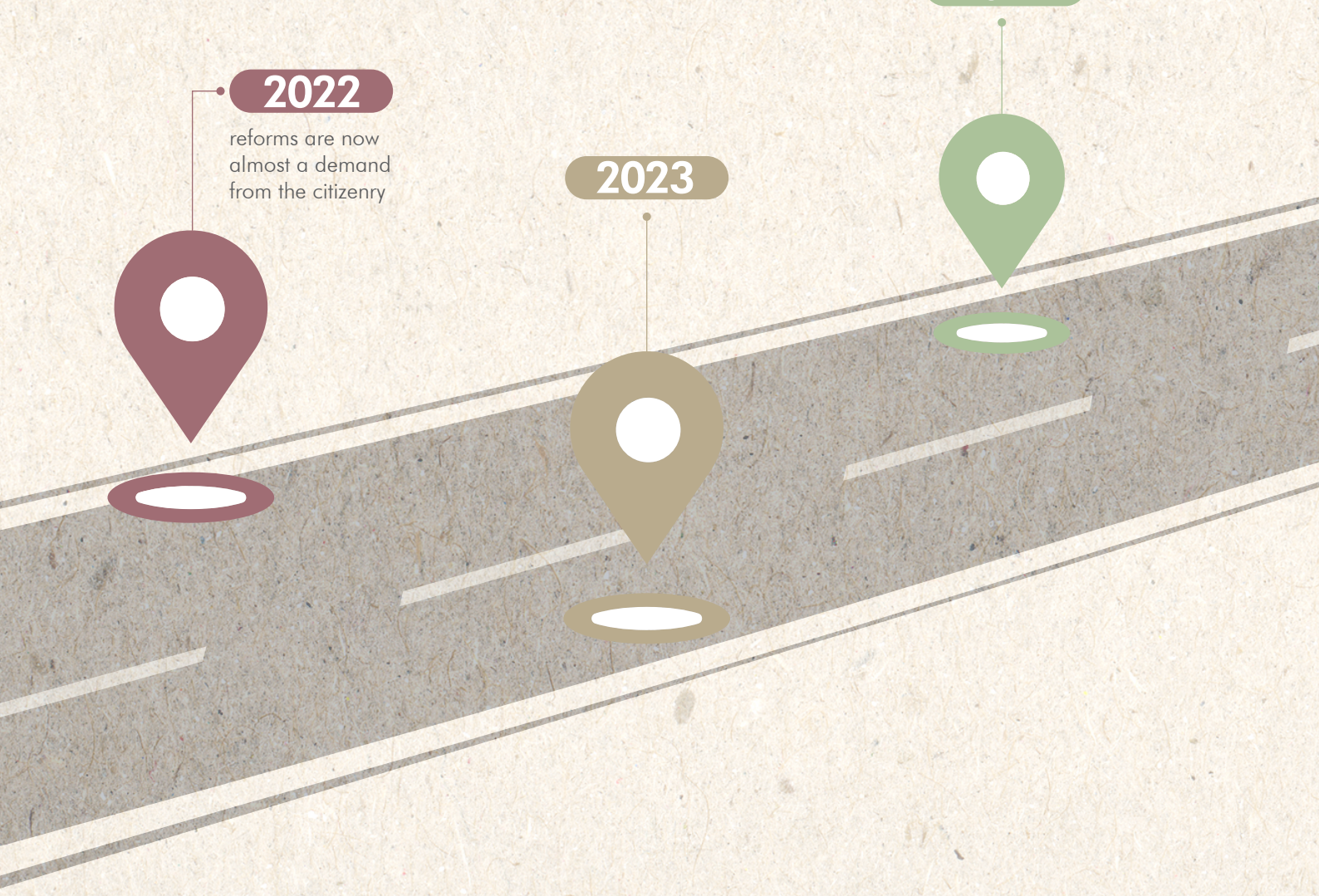
Para 3.30 of Budget Speech 2023

2022

reforms are now almost a demand from the citizenry

2023

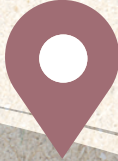
2024





2048

An Advanced Economy



2025

- Primary surplus of more than 2.3 % of GDP
- Government revenue of 15% of GDP



2032

A digital, an environmentally friendly as well as a socially just and a very competitive export economy

IN THE MEDIUM TERM, IT IS EXPECTED TO :

Reduce public sector debt from around 128 percent of GDP as at end 2022, to no more than 95 percent of GDP by 2032

Bring back the inflation under control to a mid-single digit level

Re-establish foreign exchange reserves

Achieve a 5% medium term economic growth

Budget Summery 2024

	Rs.bn
	2024 Est.
Revenue	4,181
Tax Revenue	3,820
Non-Tax Revenue	341
Grants	20
Total Expenditure	7,827
Primary Expenditure	5,176
Recurrent	3,971
Capital	1,205
Interest	2,651

As per draft Budget Estimates 2024

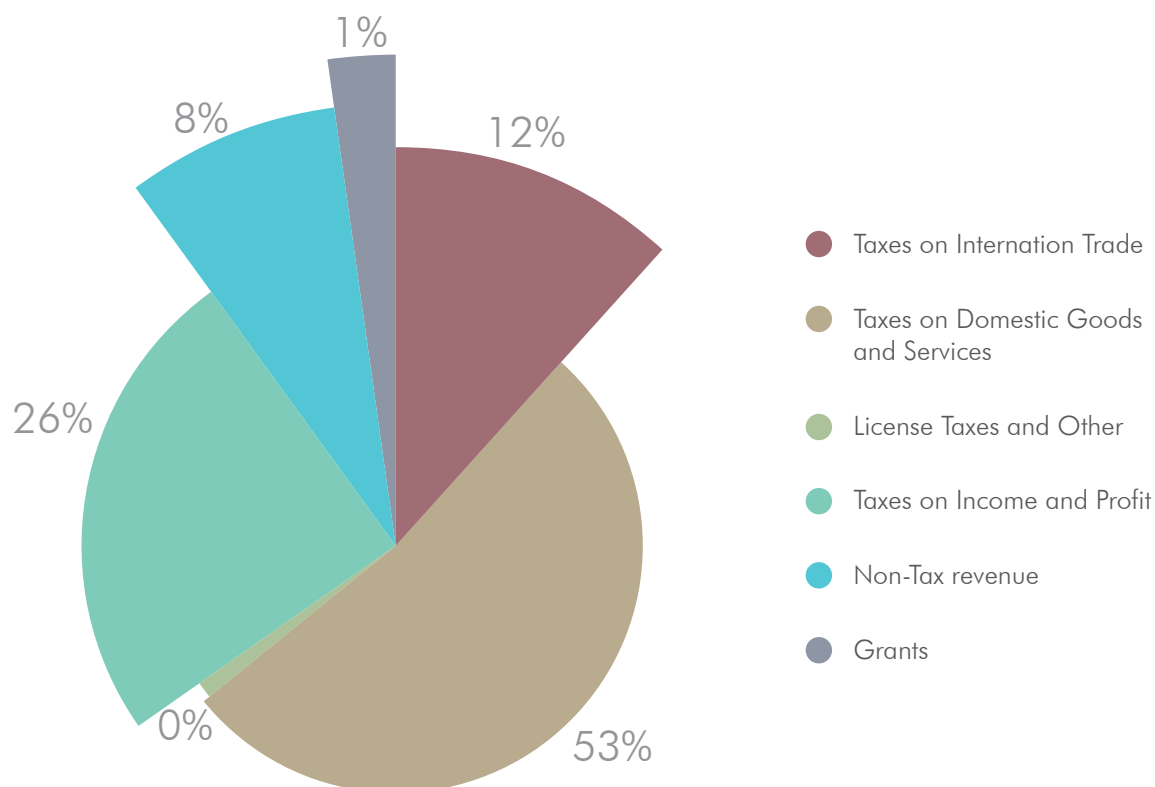
Primary expenditure means government expenditure excluding expenditure on interest payments

How Government Receives Revenue during 2024

	Rs.bn
Category	2024-Est
Taxes on International Trade	508
Taxes on Domestic Goods and Services	2,216
License Taxes and Other	16
Taxes on Income and Profit	1,080
Non-Tax revenue	341
Grants	20
Total	4,181

As per draft Budget Estimates 2024

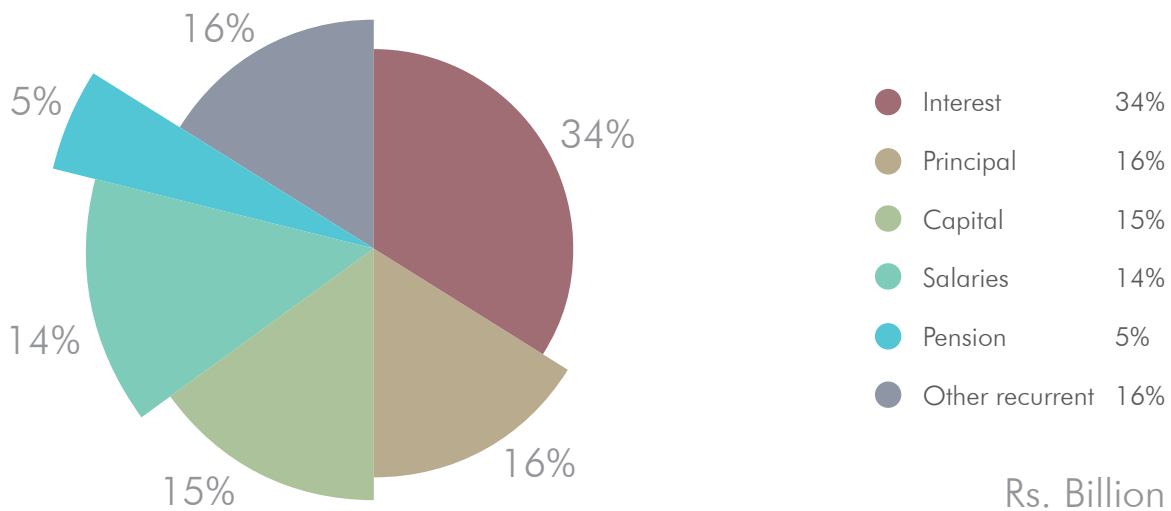
Expected Government Revenue for 2024 - Rs. billion



How Government Spends Money during 2024

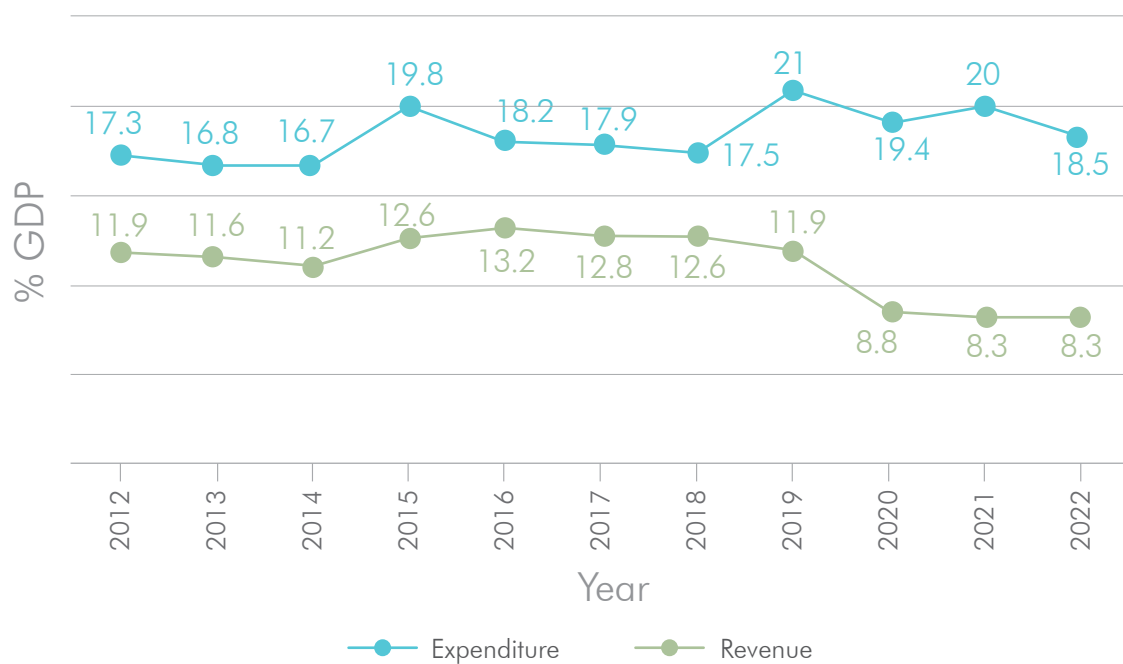
Category	2024 Expenditure Rs bn - est	As a % of 2024 total expenditure
Interest	2,651	34
Principal debt. repayment	1,268	16
Capital Expenditure	1,205	15
Salaries	1,107	14
Pension	386	5
Other recurrent	1,210	15
Total	7,827	100

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE AS A % OF 2024 TOTAL EXPENDITURE



How Government Spent money during 2012-2022 periods (as a % of GDP)

GOVERNMENT REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE



KEY REFORMS INTRODUCED DURING RECENT PAST

Improved revenue management

- Gradual increase of VAT rates to 15% from 8%
- Introduction of a new Social Security Contribution Levy
- Reduction of VAT threshold and exemptions
- Changes to corporate and personal income tax
- Improvement in tax administration, including the RAMIS
- Establishment of a “Parliamentary Committee on Ways and Means”

The reforms cover many domains and are expected to address economic stabilization as well as social implications of the crisis.

Improved expenditure, debt and public financial management

- Expenditure control and rationalization measures, including strict Circular instructions
- Reducing the retirement age of government and semi-government employees to 60 years
- No pay leave for 5 years for government servants for selected purposes
- Allowing selected personnel of the armed forces to retire early
- A Presidential Commission to review all aspects of public service to make recommendations including necessary reforms
- Establishing Parliamentary Budget Support Office
- Establishment of a National Debt Management Agency (NDMA)
- Introducing Public Financial Management Act with binding fiscal rules
- Increasing digitalization in expenditure management (ITMIS)
- Strengthening Governance and Fighting Corruption
- Setting up of Public Expenditure Review Committees (PERC)

Pricing/SOE reforms

- Introducing Cost reflective prices for fuel, electricity and LP gas
- Establishing SOE Reform Unit under Ministry of Finance
- Restructuring of loss-making State Own Enterprises (SOEs)
- Re-activating the Statements of Corporate Intent (SCI) process for key 50 SOEs

Reforms are demanded by the citizenry

Legal Reforms to stabilise the economy and facilitate the growth process

New Laws

- a. New Investment Law
- b. Public Asset Management Bill
- c. Public Private Partnership Law
- d. States Owned Enterprise Reforms Law
- e. Public Service Employment Bill
- f. The Recovery of Possession of the Premises Given on Lease (Special Provisions) Bill
- g. Enact a new, updated and unified Labor law

Revision of Laws

- a. Amendments to Excise Ordinance
- b. Amendments to Finance Act
- c. Amendments to Foreign Exchange Act
- d. Amendments to Banking Act

**The above bills and laws are in various stages of preparation and approval*

Enhancing access to global markets

- Resumption of efforts to integrate with key markets such as India and China
- Resumption of trade negotiations with Thailand
- Implementing the FTA with Singapore
- Engage in dynamic regional trading arrangements such as Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)
- Establishment of an International Trade Office to deal with all the international trade negotiations.
- Establishing Department for the Development of Cinnamon Industry

Tourism

- Identification and development of facilities for tourism promotion
- Facilitate the promotion of adventure sports/tourism

New Institutional Framework

- Data Protection Authority
- National Operations Centre under the Department of Project Management and Monitoring for tracking implementation issues of all development interventions

Social Safety Nets

- Proper implementation of Welfare Benefits Act 2002
- Update the social registry system to cover all welfare benefit schemes
- Young women entrepreneurs engaged in informal household businesses not covered by SME Line of Credit to benefit from a new loan scheme
- Transform farmers into agro-entrepreneurs via agro entrepreneurship villages and create greater employment opportunities
- Strengthening existing nutritional supplemental programs for children
- Strengthen social protection institutions, delivery systems, and targeting
- Expenditure allocations to promote the utilization of skills of the elderly, differently abled and widows as household entrepreneurs

Financial Sector

1. Completion of the asset quality review component of the bank diagnostic exercise
2. Development by the CBSL of a roadmap for addressing banking system capital and FX liquidity shortfalls and intervening in banks assessed to be non-viable
3. Cabinet approval for a full revision of the Banking Act
4. Determination by the Ministry of Finance of the size, timing, instruments, and terms and conditions for potential government recapitalization of viable banks which are unable to close capital shortfalls from private sources

**Source: CBSL Annual Report 2022*

Monetary and Exchange Rate Policies

1. A new Central Bank Act

**Source: CBSL Annual Report 2022*

Public Expenditure Review Committees (PERC)

The Cabinet of Ministers at its meeting held on 06.02.2023 decided to establish 10 Public Expenditure Review Committees (PERC) with the participation of public and private sector experts to rationalize the government expenditure of the following 10 key Ministries using the Zero-Based Budgeting Approach (ZBB) to strengthen the fiscal consolidation process and support the economic recovery process.

1. Ministry of Agriculture
2. Ministry of Defense
3. Ministry of Education
4. Ministry of Health
5. Ministry of Irrigation
6. Ministry of Plantation Industries
7. Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government
8. Ministry of Public Security
9. Ministry of Transport and Highways
10. Ministry of Urban Development and Housing

PERC reviewed all programmes/projects of each line Ministry and ascertained whether the core activities were in accordance with the mandate of the Ministry. Moreover, PERC identified duplications, wastage, and redundant expenditures, and prioritized all activities as per their potential for achieving objectives of the Ministry as well as national policies. In addition to that, they introduced short, medium and long-term reforms to be implemented by each Ministry, with a view to optimizing productivity and cost effectiveness in their service delivery.

The reports of seven PERCs have already been submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers (by 08/11/2023) and the recommendations of reports have already been considered for the preparation of 2024 Budget Estimates.

HOW GOVERNMENT SPENDS MONEY BY KEY SECTORS

		Rs. Billion
No.	Sector	2024 Investment (Est)
01	Towards a Healthier Society	529
02	Towards a Knowledge based Economy	532
03	Fast, Safe, Convenient and Resilient Transport Network for the Country	430
04	Support to Aspirations for Affordable and Decent Living	167
05	Modernized and Sustainable Agriculture	228
06	Managing Our Environment Sustainably	36
07	Commitment towards a Peaceful Fair Society	243
08	Strengthening National Security	386
09	Strengthening Economic Services	94
10	Cleaner, Secure, Economical and Reliable Energy Supply	62
11	Efficient and Effective Public Services Delivery*	469
12	A Digitalization of Public Service	18
13	Social Protection	714
Total of Sectors		3,908
Public Debt Service		3,919
	Interest Payment	2,651
	Debt Amortization	1,268
Total (Sectors, emergency management and debt service)		7,827
	Advanced Account	6
Total Budget		7,833

*the provision for emergency situation management is also included under this category

The graphic features a central circular element with a yellow-to-orange gradient, containing the text 'Budget at a Glance 2024'. To the right of this circle, a series of colored lines radiate outwards, each ending in a small dot of the same color. The background is a light, textured surface with faint, abstract shapes in shades of orange and red.

Budget at a Glance 2024



Towards
a **Healthier**
Society



Island-wide Hospital Network

Tertiary Care Hospitals

National Hospitals - **02**

Teaching Hospitals - **11**

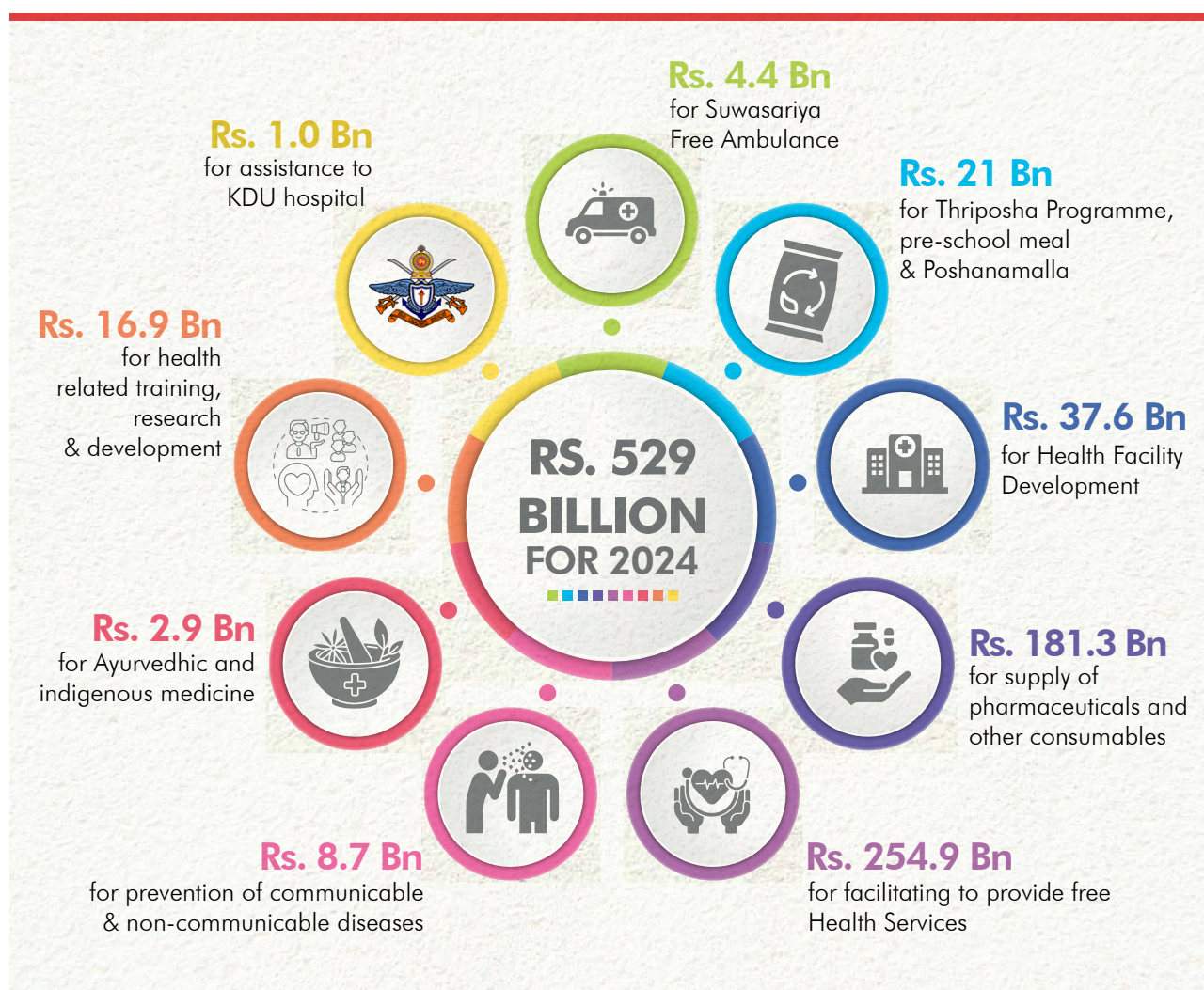
Specialized Hospitals - **18**

- Castle St Hospital For Women
- De Zoysa Hospital for Women
- Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children (LRH)
- National Dental Hospital
- Mahamodara Specialized Teaching Hospital
- National Institute of Infectious Diseases (Angoda)
- Apeksha Hospital Maharagama
- National Institute of Mental Health

- National Eye Hospital
- The National Institute of Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation
- Chest Hospital, Welisara
- Leprosy Hospital, Hendala
- Rehabilitation Hospital, Ragama
- Kethumathi Women's Hospital
- Sirimavo Bandaranayake Children's Hospital

District General Hospitals - **19**

Provincial General Hospital - **01**




Strengthening free health – Flagship Investments in 2024

- **Rs. 18.9 bn** for **maintenance and improvement of hospitals**
- **Rs. 16.9 bn** for training and capacity development of health sector personals island wide
- **Rs. 2.2 bn** for establishment of high quality radio therapy facility for cancer patients
- **Rs. 8.5 bn** for improving the efficiency, equity, and responsiveness of the primary health care system in Uva, Sabaragamuwa, North Central and Central Provinces
- **Rs. 2.7 bn** for clinical and infectious waste management in hospitals
- **Rs. 9.3 bn** for providing Bio-medical equipment, lab apparatus to hospitals
- **Rs. 6.1 bn** for provision of food for patients and staff uniforms.


Development of health facilities in selected hospitals

- Up grading health facilities in 13 selected hospitals (providing medical equipment from X-ray machines, Multipara monitors, MRI Scanners, CT Scanners, Cath Lab, and Ultrasound Scanners to these selected hospitals etc..) **Rs. 3.0 bn**
- Specialized pediatric care complexes in Karapitiya, Ampara and Jaffna hospitals – **Rs 0.1 bn**
- Bone marrow transplant unit in Kandy hospital – **Rs. 0.25 bn**
- National Stroke Center at Mulleriyawa hospital – **Rs 0.26 bn**
- Cancer hospitals at Karapitiya, Kandy and Thelippalei – **Rs. 0.24 bn**
- Heart Center for Children (Lady Ridgeway Children’s Hospital) – **Rs 1.5 bn**
- Non-communicable disease treatment facility in Sri Jayawardhanapura hospital – **Rs. 1.2 bn**

MAJOR WELFARE PROGRAMMES




Rs. 4.4 bn
“Suwasariya”
free Ambulance Service



Rs. 9.0 bn
Provision of supplementary
nutritional food to mothers and
infants (Thripasha Programme)



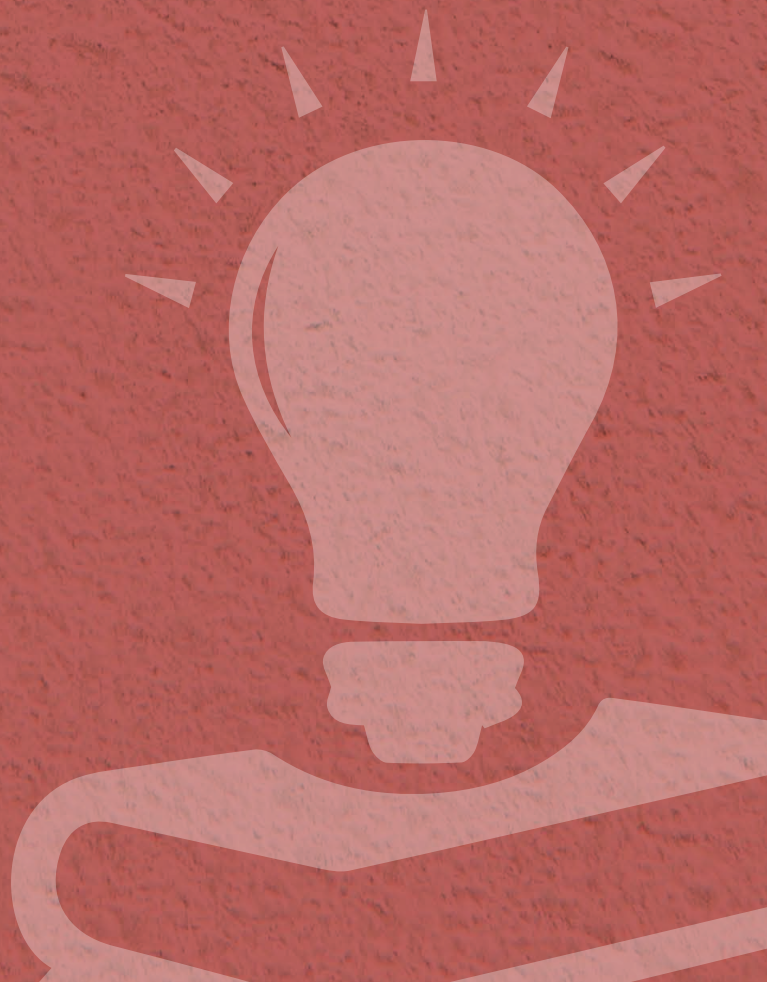
Rs. 10.0 bn
Nutritious food pack for
around 265,000
pregnant mothers



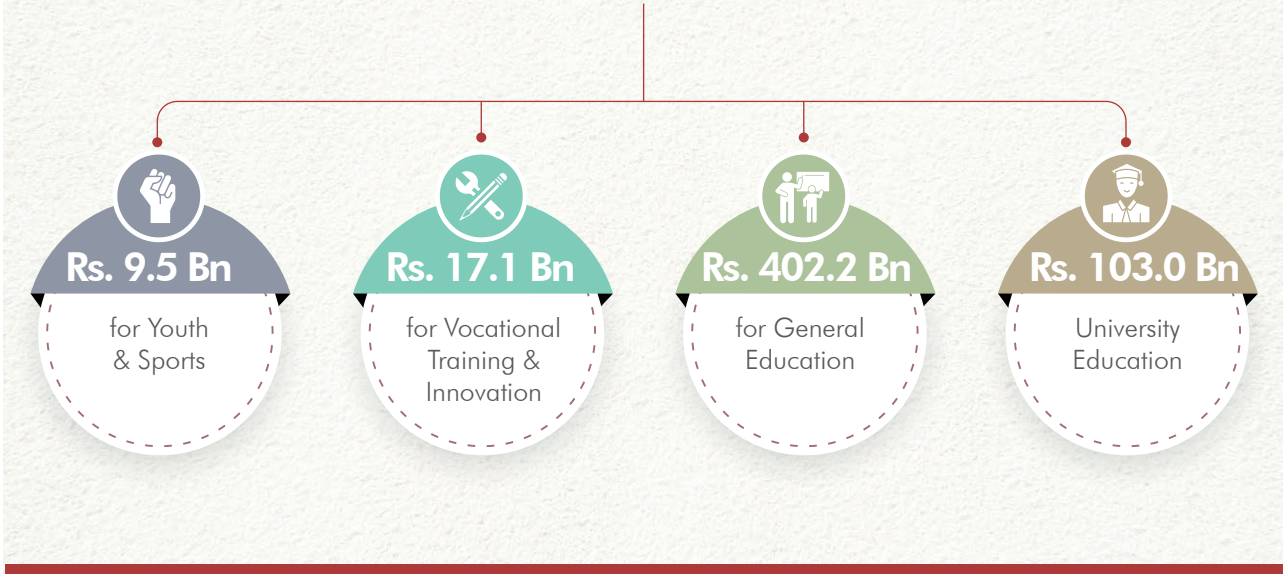
Rs 2.1 bn
Pre-School Meal
for around 155,000
students



Towards a
Knowledge
based Economy



RS. 532 BILLION FOR 2024



Science & Technology

Rs. 3.5 Bn

Vocational Training & Skills Development

Rs. 12.9 Bn

“Nipunatha Sisudhiriya” scholarship

Rs. 0.7 Bn

RS. 17.1 BN FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING & INNOVATION

School Education & Piriven

Rs: 358.5 Bn

Special Education & Assisted Schools

Rs. 3.3 Bn

Teacher Development

Rs 3.3 Bn

School Infrastructure Development

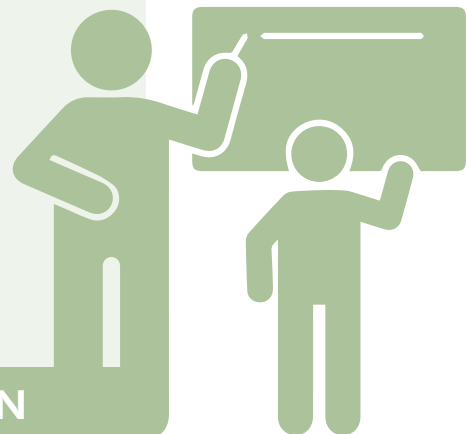
Rs. 25.2 Bn

Conducting & Evaluating Examinations

Rs. 11.3 Bn

Pre-School Education

Rs. 0.6 Bn



RS. 402.2 BN FOR GENERAL EDUCATION



Management of State Universities
Rs. 61.2 Bn

Infrastructure Development & Maintenance
Rs. 32.0 Bn

Assistance for KDU, Buddhist Universities and SLIATE
Rs. 5.0 Bn

Mahapola and Bursary
Rs. 2.5 Bn

Interest Free Loan for non-State University Education
Rs. 2.0 Bn

RS. 103.0 BN UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

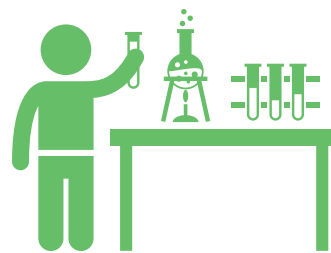
Flagship Investments in 2024

Investment in Children

- **Rs. 357.0 bn** for providing continuous and improved education for around 10,155 schools island wide
- **Rs. 4.6 bn** for rehabilitation and maintenance of school facilities
- **Rs. 8.0 bn** for quality improvement, maintenance of standards for schools, empowerment of school base management and social safeguards of schools island wide
- **Rs. 1.1 bn** for establishment of ICT hubs/smart classrooms

Investment in Skills Development

- **Rs. 0.45 bn** for technical collages and technical training development
- **Rs. 1.0 bn** for strengthening vocational training centers in Niyagama & Gampaha
- **Rs. 0.66 bn** for improving status of employment of TVET Trainees



Rs. 4.2 bn

For development of technological laboratories in schools

Investment in Youth

- **Rs. 61.2 bn** for Human Resources Management and other Operational Expenditure of State Universities
- **Rs. 5.6 bn** for construction of Technology Faculties in Waymba, Kelaniya, Rajarata, Sabaragamuwa and Uwa Wellassa Universities in order to bring out technologists.
- **Rs. 0.83 bn** for development of provincial and district sport complexes
- **Rs. 4.6 bn** for youth empowerment (National Youth Corps, National Youth Service Council)



Rs. 10.3 bn

for improving infrastructure of medical faculties and professorial units

Major Subsidy / Welfare Programmes on Education



Pre-School Education

- *Guru Abhimani* (allowance for preschool teachers)- **Rs.0.55 bn**



School Education

- Providing free text books - **Rs. 20.0 bn**
- Providing school uniforms to around 4.5 million students -**Rs. 6.0 bn**
- School nutritional food programme aiming around 1 million students – **Rs.16.7 bn**
- Shoes for around 728,000 students in difficult and very difficult schools - **Rs. 2.5 bn**
- Continuation of “*Suraksha*” Health Insurance Scheme for all Students – **Rs.2.0 bn**
- Scholarship - Grade 5 students- **Rs.0.94 bn**

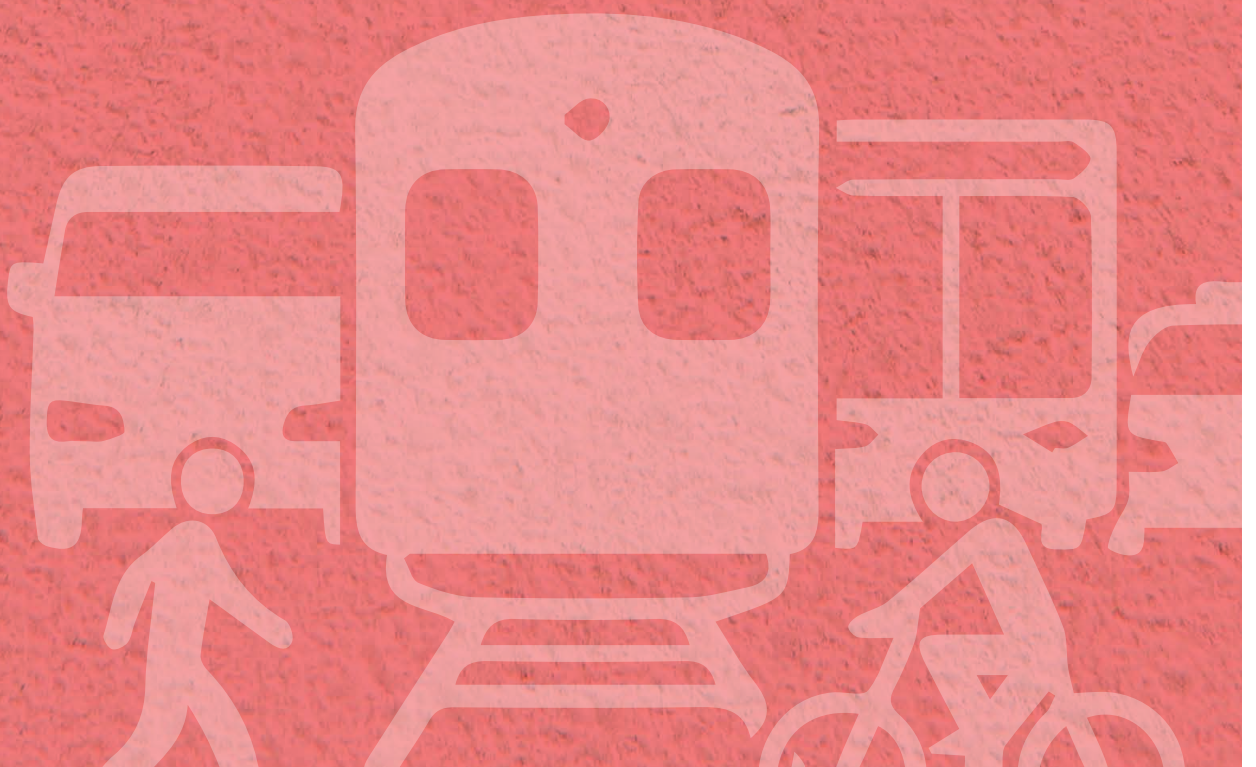


Higher Education and Technical Education

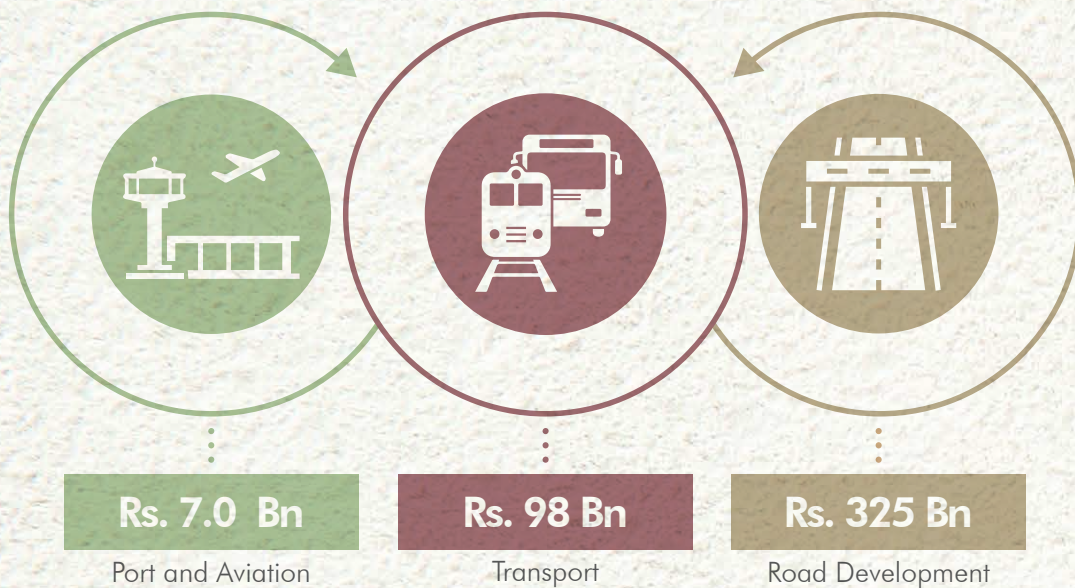
- *Mahapola* and Bursaries for around 100,000 university students- **Rs. 2.5 bn**
- Interest free loan scheme for students who are unable to get into state universities - **Rs. 2.0 bn**
- “*Nipunatha Sisu Diriya*” scholarship programme for students in vocational education and training – **Rs.0.7 bn**
- Season ticket for students in technical and vocational education - **Rs.0.18 bn**
- Nutrition for national sport pools – **Rs. 0.28 bn**



**Fast, Safe,
Convenient
and Resilient
Transport
Network for
the Country**



RS. 430 BILLION FOR 2024



Port and Aviation Rs. 7.0 Bn

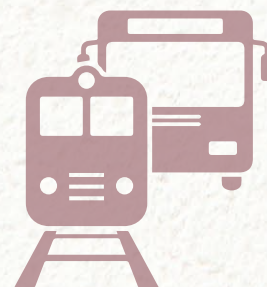
Port and related infrastructure development

Rs. 6.4 Bn

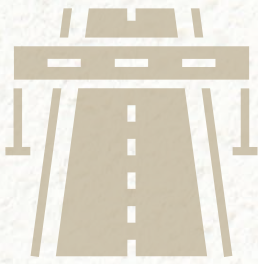
Institutional support

Rs. 0.6 Bn

Maintenance of railway fleet and other infrastructure	-	Rs. 12.5 Bn
Rail Road and related infrastructure development	-	Rs. 29.2 Bn
Adding new rolling stock to railway fleet	-	Rs. 1.4 Bn
Institutional support to related institutions	-	Rs. 38.8 Bn
Strengthening bus fleet of SLTB	-	Rs. 3.2 Bn
Season, Bus passes and other welfare	-	Rs. 12.9 Bn



Transport Rs. 98 Bn



Road Development Rs. 325 Bn

Development of Bridges and Flyovers	- Rs. 19.7 bn
Road Maintenance & Improvements	- Rs. 28.0 bn
Expressway Development	- Rs. 99.4 bn
Road Development	- Rs. 177.6 bn

Flagship Investments in 2024

Roads

- **Rs. 21.0 bn** for regular maintenance of the more than 12,000 km of island wide national roads network along with around 4,500 bridges
- **Rs. 4.0 bn** for construction of five Fly-Overs connecting Baladaksha Mawatha with Chittampalam A. Gardiner Mawatha, above the railway line at Uttarananda Mawatha and Justice Akbar Mawatha and Kohuwala and Gatambe
- **Rs. 6.0 bn** for rehabilitation and improvement of 140 km long Badulla – Chenkallady Road
- **Rs. 11.0 bn** for establishing a modernized multimodal transport center to Kandy City
- **Rs. 14.5 bn** for paying compensation to acquired lands for construction and improvement of roads
- **Rs. 43.0 bn** for completion of critical activities of already commenced rural, provincial and national roads under various road development programmes to be enhance to a mortarable level
- **Rs.3.0 bn** for development of 7.4 km Orugodawatta - Ambatale road including 6 bridges, 5.4 km Maharagama - Piliyandala road and 14.5 km Kottawa - Thalagala Road and Kurichchankerny Bridge
- **Rs. 1.3 bn** for completion of critical activities related to rehabilitation and improvements of rural roads and bridges in rural areas
- **Rs. 7.1 bn** for construction of rural bridges island wide

Rs. 73.0 bn for the continuation of construction works of **Centrel Expressway from Kadawatha-Meerigama and Pothuhera-Rambukkana**

Rs. 20.0 bn for 5.3 km long **Port Access Elevated Highway** from Ingurukade Junction to Port City

Rs. 3.2 bn for purchase of **600 buses to SLTB** to operate in rural areas.

Public Transportation

- **Rs. 14.0 bn** for introducing E- Ticket system to reserve tickets and seats of 340 Railway Stations
- **Rs. 10.5 bn** for rehabilitation of railway tracks, rolling stock (engines, passenger coaches, DMUs) and signaling system
- **Rs.13.3 bn** for rehabilitation of 130 km of Maho- Omanthai rail track, 10 km of Kandy-Peradeniya- Kadugannawa rail track

- **Rs.15.3 bn** to provide fuel to operate trains
- **Rs. 1.5 bn** to repair bus engines, gear boxes, bus bodies for augmentation of the bus fleet

Ports

- **Rs.5.3 bn** for the expansion of Colombo Port and rehabilitation of Kankasanthurei Port



Major Subsidy Programmes

- Subsidy for school season tickets (536,000 per month) – **Rs 10.5 bn**
- Passes of armed forces (29,000 annually) - **Rs. 0.4 bn**
- Buses Operating on Unremunerated Routes (around 271,000 km per day along 1,500 unremunerated Routs) - **Rs.2.0 bn**
- Contribution for socially obligatory bus services (Sisu Sariya, Nisi Sariya and Gami Sariya, late night services - **Rs. 2.0 bn**
- Financial Assistance to SLTB – **Rs. 0.1 bn**





**Support to
Aspirations
for
Affordable
and **Decent**
Living**



RS. 167 BILLION FOR 2024



Urban Development
and Housing

Rs. 47 Bn



Water Supply

Rs. 120.0 Bn

Urban Development and Housing - Rs. 47 bn

	Rs Bn
City Development	8.0
Rural and Semi-urban Infrastructure	10.6
Housing Development	28.0

Water Supply - Rs. 120.0 bn

	Rs Bn
Development of Water Supply Schemes	75.0
Efficiency Improvement of Water Supply System	13.8
Capacity Improvement of Water Supply System	10.0
Sanitation / Sewerage Facility Development	11.6
Rural & Community Water System Development	9.6

Flagship Investments in 2024

- **Rs. 29.7 bn** to establish the capacity of providing pipe borne water to around 1 million households in Kundasale, Harispaththuwa, Pathadhumbara, Poojapitiya, Akurana, Yatinuwara, Jaffna, Nallur, Veelanai, Kytes, Chenkanai, Palai, Mahawa and Polpithigama Divisional Secretariats, Mathale, Ukuwela, Raththota, Nawula, Yatawaththa, Pallepola, Abangaga Divisional Secretariats, Ruwanwella, Bulathkohupitiya, Yatiyanthota Divisional Secretariats, Padaviya, Horoupathana, Kahatagasdigiliya, Kabithigollewa, and Rambawa areas
- **Rs. 5.0 bn** for enhancing energy efficiency of water provision to Kaduwela, Kotte, Kolonnawa and Sri- Jayawardhanapura areas
- **Rs 10.0 bn** for provision of 475,000 new water connections, 8,000 new sewerage connections by capacity enhancement of existing schemes
- **Rs. 6.2 bn** for community water supply development in Nuwaraeliya, Monaragala, Kilinochchi, Mulative, Badulla, Kegalle and Rathnapura Districts
- **Rs.11.0 bn** for Provision of sewerage facilities to Kandy City area, Yatinuwara, Rathmalana, Moratuwa, Kelaniya, Negambo MC area, Galle MC area, Colombo MC, Unawatuna, Kelaniya and Peliyagoda area

Rs.15.4 bn for providing 50,000 decent houses to urban estate dwellers living in Applewatta, Madampitiya, Rajawatta, Cyril Perera Mawatha, Bloemendhal Flats, Dematagoda, Kalinga Mawatha-Colombo 05 and Torrington Mawatha-Colombo 07)

Rs.3.2 bn for 2,000 houses for low income earners in the areas of Peliyagoda, Dematagoda, Maharagama, Moratuwa and Kottawa

Rs. 8.7 bn for reducing non-revenue water from 49% to 18% in Colombo North, Colombo East, Colombo South and Colombo West

Housing

- **Rs. 2.0 bn** for more than 18,500 housing units for urban, rural, low-income families, Wirusumithuru and families affected by chronic kidney disease
- **Rs. 2.0 bn** for 6,759 housing units for displaced people in North and East Provinces
- **Rs. 4.6 bn** for providing more than 10,000 housing units in the estate sector

Urban Development

- **Rs. 0.6 bn** for Development of 100 cities by providing commercial and public facilities, Urban Parks and Water Parks, Vehicle Parks and Bus Terminals
- **Rs. 2.0 bn** for the development of Anuradhapura City
- **Rs. 0.4 bn** for rehabilitation of Jaffna town hall



Major Subsidy Programmes

- Interest payment for “Soduru Piyasa”, “Sihina Maliga”, credit scheme for middle income housing buyers – **Rs. 0.4 bn**

**Modernized
and Sustainable
Agriculture** -
safe, nutritious,
affordable and
sustainable food for all
citizens at all times



RS. 228 BILLION FOR 2024



- **Rs. 13.8 bn** for maintenance and improvement of tanks, reservoirs, anicuts, canals and other irrigation related infrastructure
- **Rs. 14.3 bn** for promoting value addition in agricultural products and dissemination of new technology aiming export market
- **Rs. 25.6 bn** for enhancing climate resiliency of agriculture related infrastructure and agriculture production
- **Rs. 1.3 bn** for providing high quality seeds and planting materials
- **Rs. 5.3 bn** for ensuring sustainability of Mahaweli related reservoirs
- **Rs. 3.5 bn** for construction of Gandara Fishery Harbor
- **Rs. 0.4 bn** for anchorage development in Myladdy, Mawella and Rekawa fishery harbors.
- **Rs. 9.0 bn** for acquisition of lands for state development purposes
- **Rs. 0.4 bn** for surveying 16 million lots of lands and issuing Tittles – Bim Saviya

Rs. 50.0 bn for new reservoirs and capacity improvement of existing reservoirs including Yan Oya, Uma Oya, Thalpitigala Reservoir, Moragahakanda and Kaluganga



Welfare / Subsidies in the Sector

- Island wide fertilizer subsidiary program - **Rs. 19.5 bn**
- Farmer's Pension for around 175,000 farmers - **Rs. 5.3 bn**
- Insurance for crop cultivation - **Rs. 1.0 bn**
- Subsidies for Rubber new planting, replanting and infilling - **Rs. 0.5 bn**
- Encourage Small and Medium Scale coconut growers - **Rs. 0.5 bn**
- Matching grants for value addition and export oriented agriculture - **Rs. 1.6 bn**
- Subsidy for tea and rubber growers to increase the cultivation - **Rs. 0.27 bn**
- Subsidies for tea new planting, replanting and infilling - **Rs. 0.5 bn**
- Subsidies for export oriented minor crops and related entrepreneur support - **Rs. 0.4 bn**
- Contribution to 'Diyawara Diriya ' Loan scheme - **Rs. 0.013 bn**





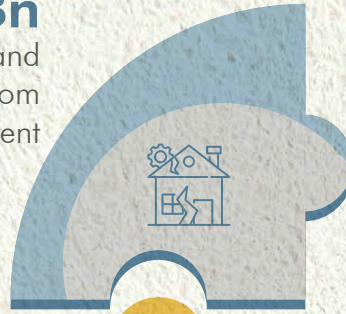
**Managing
Our
Environment
Sustainably**



RS. 36.0 BILLION FOR 2024

Rs. 16.3 Bn

Disaster and
Storm
Water Management



Rs. 5.6 Bn

Environment



Rs. 6.3 Bn

Waste
Management



Rs. 7.9 Bn

Wildlife



Flagship Investments in 2024

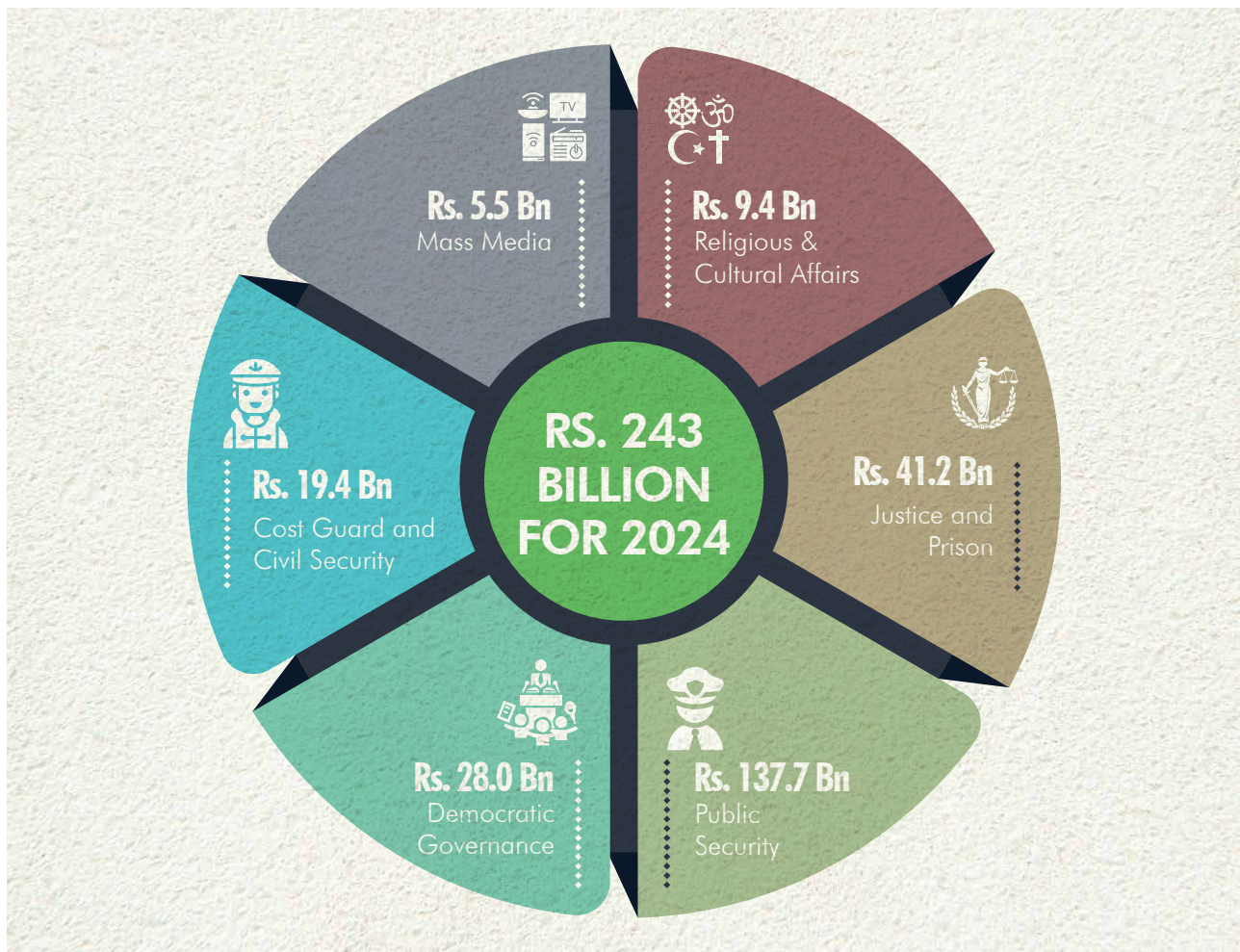
- **Rs.13.0 bn** for ensuring people are safe from disasters including - minimizing the impact of disasters, resettlement from landslide vulnerable areas, landslide vulnerability mitigation
- **Rs:1.8 bn** for meteorological functions
- **Rs. 1.1 bn** for forest protection and coverage expansion
- **Rs. 1.0 bn** for provision of environmental friendly technologies for industries
- **Rs. 1.55 bn** for storm water management in Kolonnawa, Kelaniya, Oliyamulla, Dehiwala, Mt. Lavinia, Rathmalana, Maharagama areas
- **Rs. 0.15 bn** for renovation of around 500 km of existing Electric Fences

Rs. 5.5 bn
for providing
**final disposal
facility for the
1200 tons/day
Municipal Solid
Waste** collected
from the Local
Authorities of
Metro Colombo
Region



**Commitment
towards a
Peaceful &
Fair Society**





Flagship Investments in 2024



Justice & Prison

Justice

- **Rs. 2.6 bn** for Modernization and Renovation of Superior Courts Complex
- **Rs. 1.2 bn** for Construction of Courts in Anuradhapura, Matale, Jaffna, Polonnaruwa, Galle, Matara, Gampola, Walapane, Wattala, Ruwanwella, Mullaitivu, Mankulam, Ratnapura, Welimada, Kilinochchi, Theldeniya, Kantale and Pugoda
- **Rs. 1.0 bn** for Construction of Magistrate Courts
- **Rs 9.3 bn** for administration of 223 Courts and 39 Labour Tribunals island-wide

Prison

- **Rs. 6.0 bn** for provision of Diets for prisoners
- **Rs. 0.4 bn** for enhancement of sanitary facilities in prisons

Democratic Governance

- **Rs. 10.0 bn** for conducting fair elections
- **Rs. 4.3 bn** for strengthening legislative power of people
- **Rs. 0.38 bn** for strengthening human rights



Civil Security

- **Rs. 17.9 bn** for paying salaries, wages and allowances of around 33,800 Civil Security Officers

Public Security

- **Rs. 80.2 bn** for salaries and wages of more than 82,000 Police Officers
- **Rs. 5.4 bn** for providing diets and uniforms of Police Officers



Boarder Control Measures

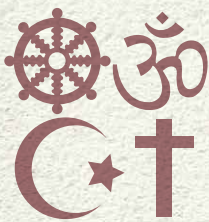
- **Rs.1.7 bn** for purchasing blank travel documents (passports) and deliverables

Registration of Persons

- **Rs.1.0 bn** for purchasing pre-printed cards for Identity Cards

Rs. 4.2 bn for implementing Anti-Corruption Act, No. 9 of 2023 to create a society free of bribery and corruption.

Religious & Cultural Affairs



- **Rs. 1.2 bn** for achieves management and conservation projects
- **Rs.0.23 bn** for archaeological conservation and management Projects
- **Rs. 0.34 bn** for maintenance of John De Silva Theatre, National Art Gallery, Tower Hall Theatre, Galle Heritage, Kandyan Heritage, Folk Art Centre, Art Council and Amaradewa Asapuwa under the Promotion of performing art activities including Drama, Music and Dancing
- **Rs. 0.1 bn** for religious and cultural ceremonies



Dhamma School

- Dhamma school text books for students - **Rs. 0.25 bn**
- Facilitating Dhamma school teachers - **Rs. 0.63 bn**

**Strengthening
National
Security**



RS. 386 BILLION FOR 2024

Rs. 357.3 Bn
National Security



Rs. 28.6 Bn

Rehabilitation and
Improvement of
Assets



Flagship Investments in 2024

- **Rs.9.0 bn** for completion of Akuregoda Defense Head Quarters Building No 1,2,3, and 4
- **Rs. 1.6 bn** for construction of quay at Dockyard Trincomalee
- **Rs. 187.4 bn** for salaries, wages and other allowances of Tri-forces
- **Rs. 98.7 bn** for diets and uniform of Tri-forces
- **Rs. 28.6 bn** for maintenance, rehabilitation and improvement of assets of Tri-forces



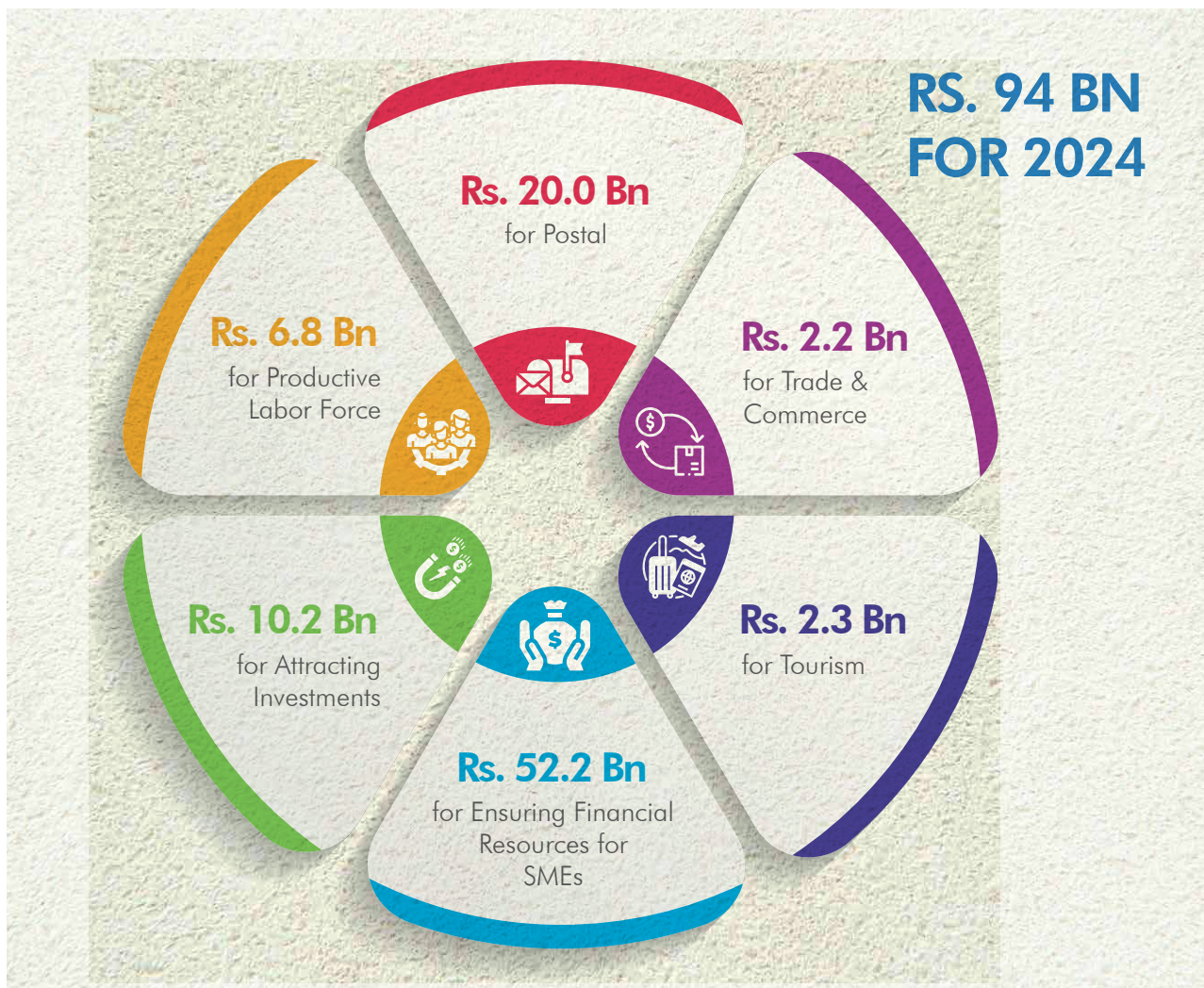
Welfare / Subsidies in the Sector

- "Ranawiru Mapiya" allowances for 253,110 beneficiaries -
Rs. 2.3 bn



**Strengthening
Economic
Services**





Rs: 20.0 billion for Postal

	Rs Bn
Salaries, wages and other allowances for maintaining postal service island wide	15.0

Rs: 2.2 billion for Trade & Commerce

	Rs Bn
Protecting Consumers	0.5
Warehouse construction	0.3

Rs: 2.3 billion for Tourism

	Rs Bn
Development of Botanical Gardens	0.83
Attracting tourists and promoting tourism	1.5

Rs: 52.2 billion for Ensuring Financial Resources for SMEs

	Rs Bn
Supporting to access financial resources for SMEs	26.6
Credit Guarantee for SMEs	17.5
SME loans	1.9

Rs: 10.2 billion for Attracting Investments

	Rs Bn
Providing Facilities to Colombo Financial City	1.5
Industry Related Infrastructure Development	1.8
Facilitating Industries through the Institutions	6.1
Technology Transfer to Industries	0.8

Rs: 6.8 billion for Productive Labor Force

	Rs Bn
Assisting to safe regular labor migration	0.2

Flagship Investments in 2024

- **Rs. 1.0 bn** for development of infrastructure facilities of industrial estates.
- **Rs. 0.5 bn** for development of infrastructure facilities in Wagawatta and Bingiriya industrial zones
- **Rs. 2.5 bn** to provide financial assistance to Companies to commence or expand economically or financially viable projects to expand production
- **Rs. 6.8 bn** for facilitating for development of a productive labor force
- **Rs. 1.5 bn** for providing utility services to the boarder of Colombo Financial City
- **Rs. 0.6 bn** to provide required facilities to tourist destinations like Nuwaraeliya, Kalpitiya, Ella, Arugumbokka areas
- **Rs. 0.81 bn** for managing botanical gardens located in Gampaha, Hambantota, Avissawella and Haggala

Rs. 26.6 bn for Providing Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Line of Credit aiming Entrepreneur Finance Initiatives, Emergency Response Component (ERC) to provide permanent working capital loans for economic crisis affected medium and small entrepreneurs

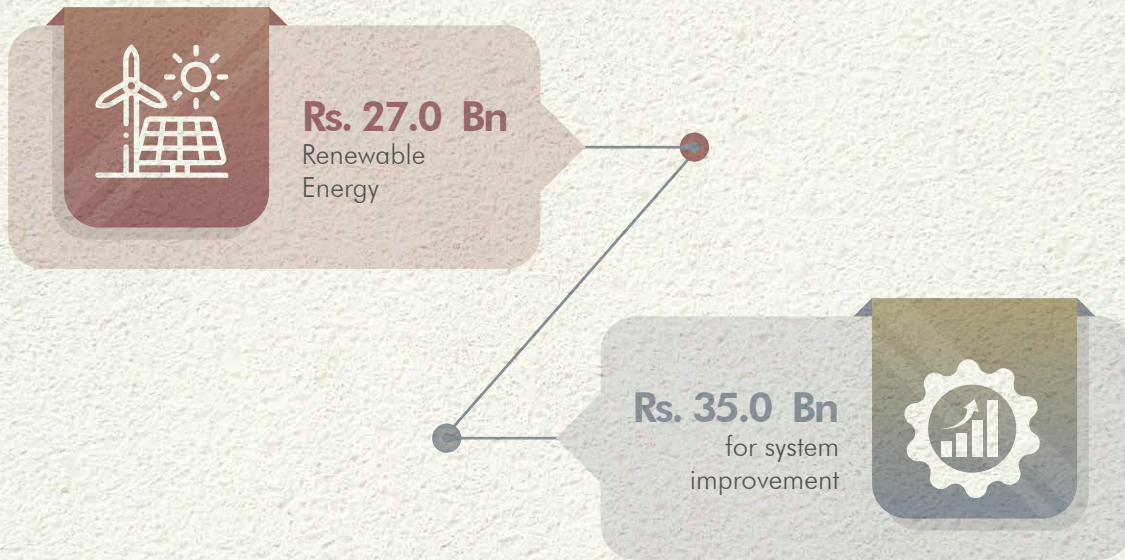
Rs. 17.5 bn for establishment of a National Credit Guarantee Institution to ensure access to finance bottleneck faced by SMEs which are having difficulties in finding collateral requirements



**Cleaner, Secure,
Economical and
Reliable Energy
Supply**



RS. 62 BILLION FOR 2024



- **Rs. 18.0 bn** for **Rooftop Solar Power Generation Line of Credit** to shift to renewable energy sources with the view of promoting environmental friendly low cost energy sources
- **Rs. 1.7 bn** for Colombo Waste to Energy Power Plant – converting waste to energy
- **Rs.3.2 bn** for **Battery Energy Storage** at Hambantota
- **Rs. 1.1 bn** for providing **solar Facilitation for Religious Places**

- **Rs. 3.6 bn** for construction of Hybrid renewable energy systems in small islands - Delft, Analative and Nainative



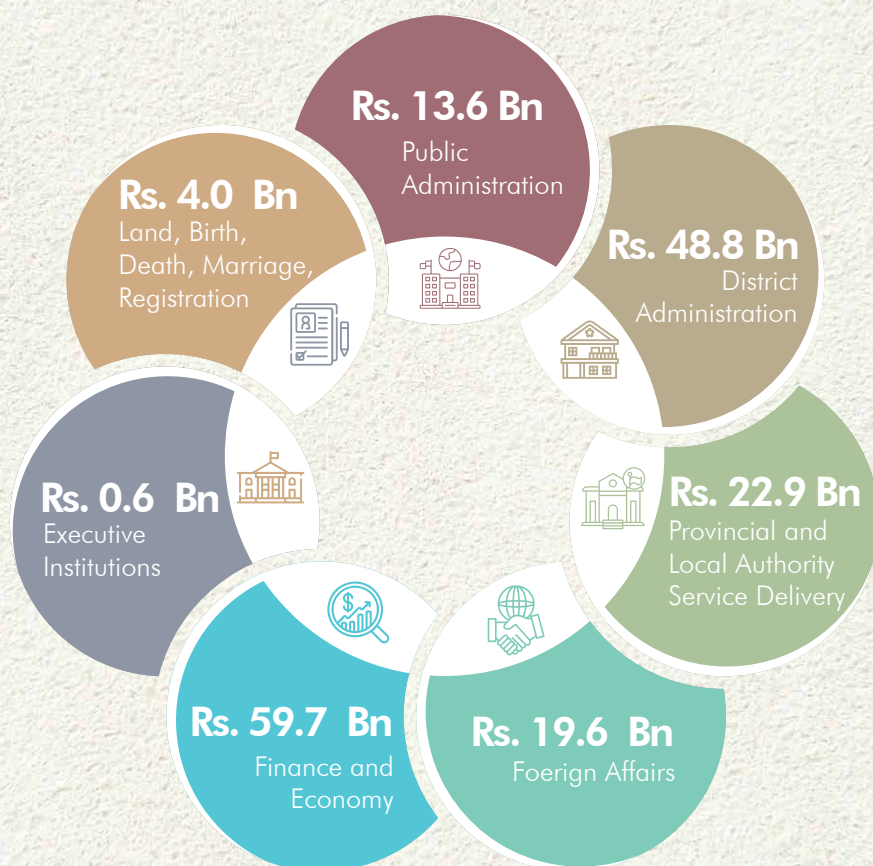
- **Rs. 30.0 bn** for **Habarana-Veyangoda Transmission** line development and enhancing transmission capacity and reducing transmission losses of the national grid and Moragolla Power Plant.



**Efficient and
Effective
Public Service
Delivery**



RS. 469* BILLION FOR 2024

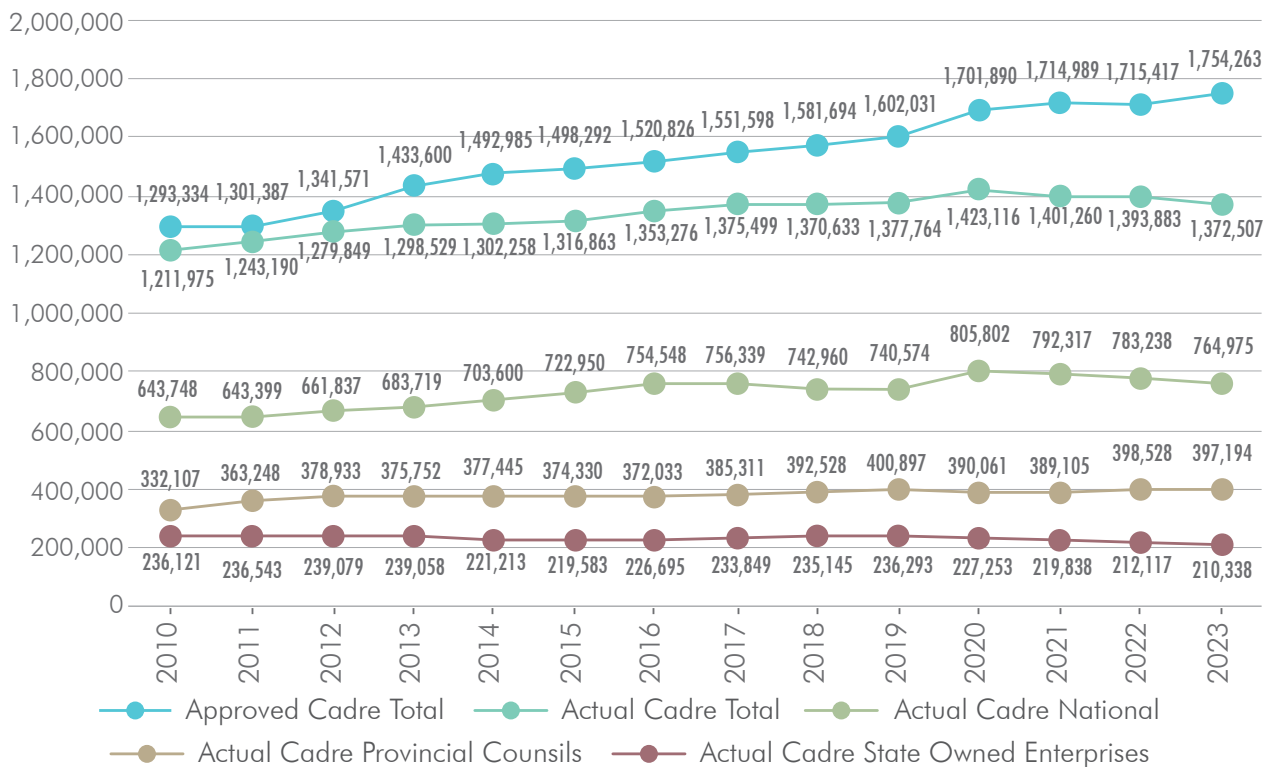


*The allocation for emergency situation management is also included.

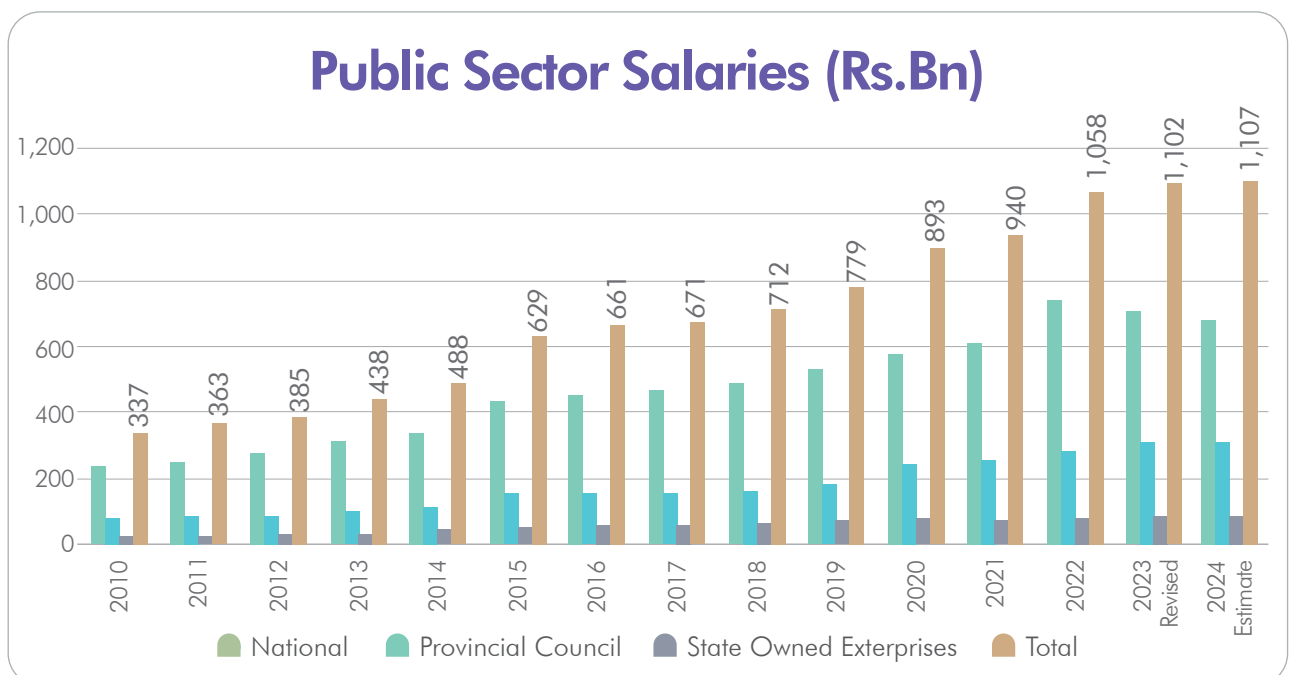
Flagship Investments in 2024

- **Rs. 19.6 bn** for maintenance of diplomatic relations with foreign countries and broadening cooperation
- **Rs. 0.98 bn** for capacity development
- **Rs. 46.5 bn** to continuously supply of services provided by divisional and district secretariat
- **Rs. 28.7 bn** for facilitation of Provincial and Local Government Service Delivery (except health and education)
- **Rs. 2.26 bn** for completion of construction of Buildings in District and Divisional Secretariats

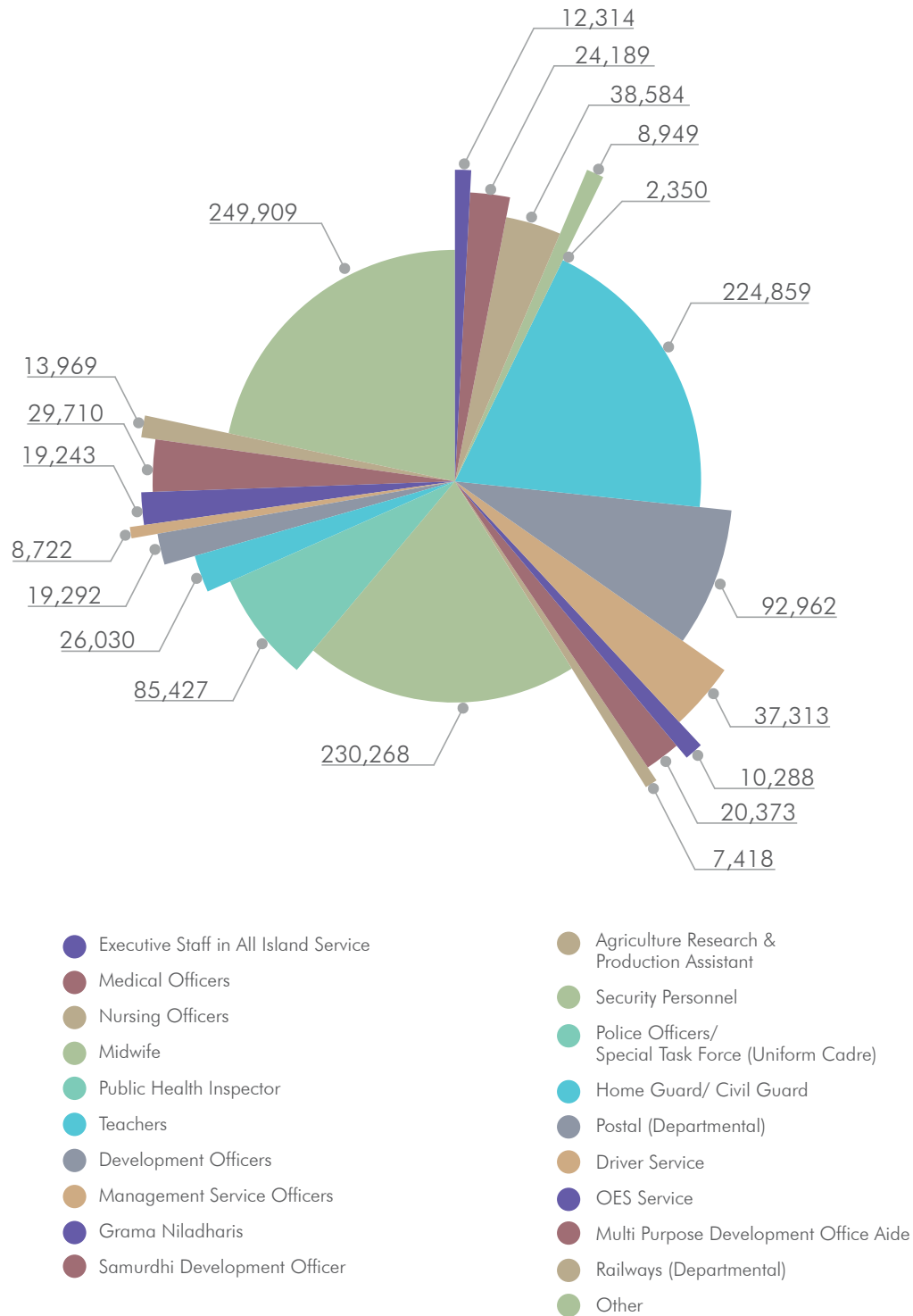
How Public Sector Employment Grew during 2010-2023



Expenditure on Salaries of Public Servants

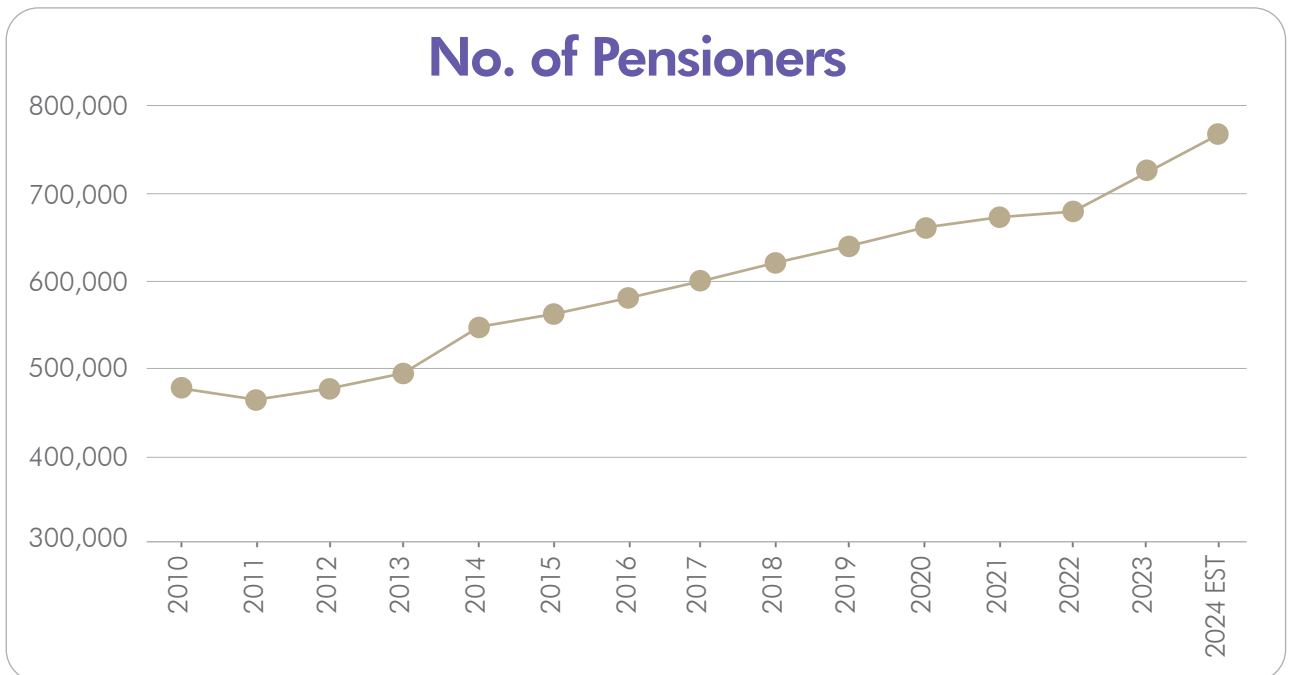


Number of Public Servants at National and Provincial Level by Profession

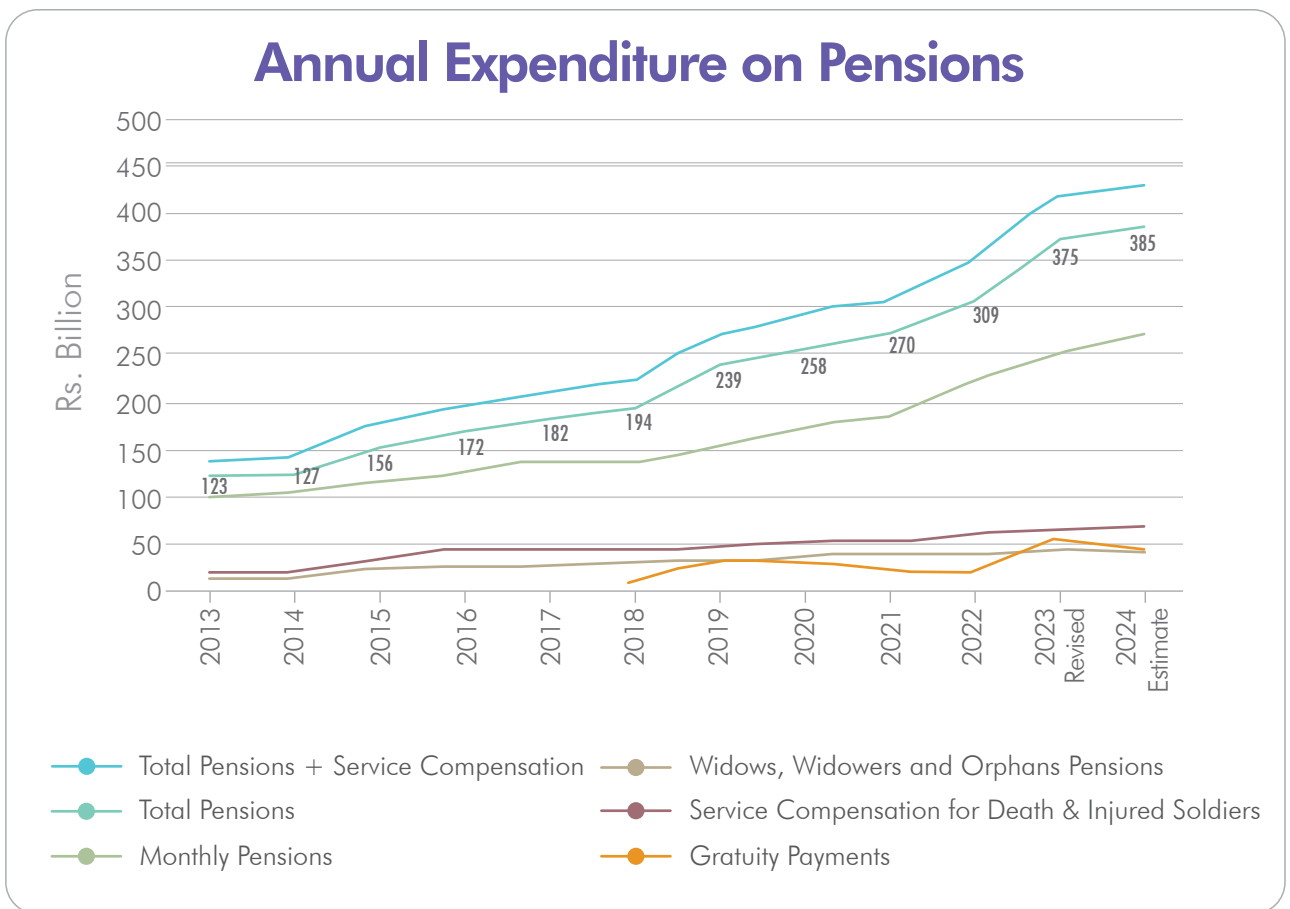


Source : Department of Management Services, Department of National Budget

Pensions – How the number of Pensioners and expenditure on pensions grew overtime



Source : Department of National Budget



Source : Department of National Budget



FOSTERING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN SRI LANKA

The rapid evolution of technology in the information and communication sector has not only dramatically reshaped economic and social activities but also continues to innovate at an astonishing pace in all other sectors as well. Digitalization has become a critical driver of global economic activities and across various sectors, encompassing finance, education, healthcare, transportation, manufacturing etc.

In an era defined by the rapid evaluation of technology, embracing the digital age is not merely an option; but an imperative for the country's progress and development.

In Sri Lanka, the wave of digitalization has already swept through several sectors, with banking and finance, e-commerce, private healthcare, and telecommunications at the forefront. The adoption of digital solutions is on a steady rise, and our digital infrastructure is well-developed. By the end of 2022, the number of internet connections was nearly on par with our country's population. Seamless 4G mobile coverage is also providing widespread internet access across most of the island.

Yet, even in the face of such significant progress, there is still much ground to cover in realizing the full potential of the digitalization including a digital economy. To accelerate this transformation, the government has embarked on a journey to digitalize the public sector. Our core objectives are clear: to

enhance the efficiency of government service delivery and to bolster the competitiveness of the IT and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry. These objectives will be pursued by focusing on key priorities, including data protection, the development of related infrastructure, cyber security enhancement, and skills development.

In this endeavor, we place great emphasis on bridging the "digital divide," ensuring that all citizens have equitable access to connectivity, digital skills, and technology. We have already connected approximately 860 government institutions, ranging from Divisional Secretariats to District Secretariats, Ministries, and a selected set of Departments, through the Lanka Government Network (LGN). This network, established with the intent of safe data sharing between government institutions, is poised to expand to 1,700 public institutions in the near future.

Moreover, around 200 government institutions have harnessed the Lanka Government Cloud as their server. Additionally, we have already digitalized most government expenditure and revenue management systems, eliminating geographical constraints. This transformation empowers the general public to access government services from their own locations, reducing the need for physical visits, and in doing so, saving both time and precious resources.

As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our



commitment to cultivate a digital ecosystem that empowers our nation. Together, we shall continue to harness the boundless potential of digital technology for the betterment of Sri Lanka. Our budget for 2024 is designed to propel this digital transformation forward.

In 2024, the government aims to spend Rs 18 Billion towards accelerating digitalization of Sri Lanka's economy and service delivery by leveraging advanced technology-based solutions

Overall Objectives of the 2024 IT budget:

1. Transition to an inclusive digital economy and digitalized service delivery.
2. Government-facilitated digital business platform for investment.
3. Leveraging human-centric technology to overcome the current economic crisis.
4. Reduce the digital divide and ensure digital transformation reaches every corner of the country.

Key areas:

1. Digital infrastructure.
2. E-Governance.
3. Digital Literacy and Education.
4. Tech Industry Development.
5. Digital Healthcare.
6. Cyber Security.
7. Digital Inclusion.
8. Digital Economy.

RS. 18.0 BILLION FOR DIGITALIZATION OF GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS



Finance

- Revenue Administration Management Information System (RAMIS) – **Rs. 4.56 bn**
- Maintenance of ASYCUDA IT System - **Rs. 0.17 bn**
- Excise Revenue Management System (EDSL) – **Rs. 0.84 bn**
- e-Government Procurement Project- **Rs. 0.42 bn**
- Rolling out of ITMIS Programme to expenditure units – **Rs. 0.58 bn**

Technology

- Digitalization of Government operations (LGN,LGC etc) – **Rs. 1.9 bn**
- Data Protection Authority to safeguard the information of the public through an efficient monitoring and regulatory process – **Rs. 0.2 bn**



Transport

- E-motoring and on-line examination of Department of Motor Traffic- **Rs.1.1 bn**

Health

- Maintenance of digital Health Information System in hospitals – **Rs. 0.20 bn**
- Expanding the medical supplies management information systems up to divisional hospitals – **Rs. 0.095 bn**

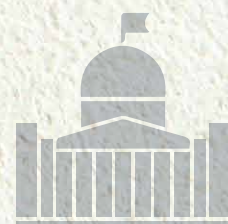


Education

- Digital education infrastructure maintenance programme – **Rs. 0.12 bn**
- E- Thaksalawa – **Rs. 0.27 bn**

Public Administration

- E- Grama Niladhari initiatives – **Rs 1.25 bn**
- E-Land and e-Population projects – **Rs. 0.18 bn**
- Establishment of a data base for local authorities – **Rs. 0.030 bn**





Land

- State Land Information Management System (e-slim) – **Rs. 0.045 bn**
- Land Information Service System in Sri Lanka – **Rs 0.25 bn**

Religious

- Integrated management information system of religious and cultural departments, including digitalization of “Thripitakaya” – **Rs. 0.035 bn**
- Establishment of Digital Repository for Achieves – **Rs. 0.12 bn**

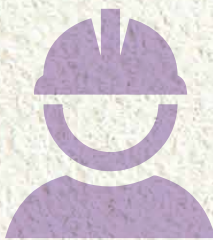


Justice

- Prison Information Management System – **Rs. 0.050 bn**

Public Security

- E-national Identity Card – **Rs. 3.0 bn**



Labor

- Improvement of EPF information system for effective service delivery – **Rs. 0.1 bn**



SOCIAL PROTECTION

Rs. 714 bn



Aswasuma Programme Rs. 200.0 bn

- Cash Grants for Low Income Families – **Rs. 183.3 bn**
- Support for low income Disabled Persons – **Rs. 4.3 bn**
- Financial Support for Elderly (Over 70 years of age) – **Rs. 10.0 bn**
- Financial Support for Elderly (Over 100 years of age) – **Rs. 0.03 bn**
- Financial Support for Kidney Patients – **Rs. 2.3 bn**



Pensions and Gratuity

- Pensions for Public Officers (730,000 pensioners) - **Rs. 270.0 bn**
- Service compensation for death and injured soldiers (41,800 soldiers) – **Rs. 44.5 bn**
- Pension for widows, widowers and orphans of public officers – **Rs. 68.0 bn**
- Gratuity payments - **Rs. 47.0 bn**
- Railway Warrants for pensioners – **Rs. 0.42 bn**

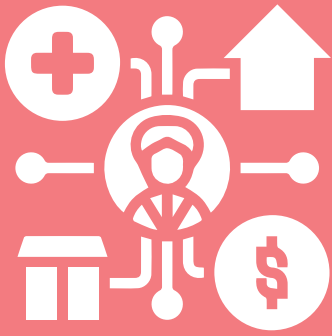


Other

- Interest difference payment for senior citizens' deposits – **Rs. 20.0 bn**
- World Food Programme – **Rs. 1.8 bn**
- Samurdhi fund re-imburement – **Rs. 36.0 bn**
- Allowance for July Strikers - **Rs. 0.012 bn**
- Co-ordination and implementation of social development programme – **Rs 26.6 bn**

The Budget 2024 as per Accounting Format

		Rs. Bn
		2024 Estimate
1	Recurrent	5,354
	Personal Emoluments	1,145
	Interest Payments	2,651
	Subsidies & Household Transfers	1,065
	Other Recurrent	493
2	Capital	1,205
	Domestically Funded Projects	380
	Foreign Funded Projects	625
	Development Assistance	42
	Restructuring/Equity Contribution	70
	Other Capital	88
3	Debt Amortization	1,268
	Domestic	994
	Foreign	274
4	Advance Account	6
Total		7,833



Welfare Programs

1. Welfare Benefit Program

Rs. 200,000 million has been allocated by 2024 estimates to provide financial assistance to low-income earners as well as to provide benefits for the elderly, disabled, and kidney patients. This program is implemented by direct remittance of money to the identified beneficiaries under the Aswasuma welfare benefit program to their bank accounts. Under this program, it is expected to provide relief to 2,000,000 families.



2. Empowerment of Low-income Families

It is intended to empower all beneficiary families economically, psychologically, and socially within 3 years through the Aswasuma Welfare Benefit Program. As a pilot project of this program, Rs. 1,050 million has been allocated for the year 2024 to empower the transitional and vulnerable family groups who will leave next year' from the welfare benefits program.

3. Saubhagya Village Programme

Under this program, the government will provide facilities for the development of the livelihood of the people living in those areas by identifying the local production specialties organizing them as production villages, and targeting the local and foreign markets. A provision of Rs. 150 million has been allocated in the year 2024 to facilitate the production of villages that have already been started to cover all the districts of the island.



4. Payment of Pension

Monthly pension for more than 730,000 retired government employees, gratuity, and widows'/ widow male' and orphans' pensions to the dependents of deceased government employees are paid. In the year 2024, Rs. 385,458 million has been allocated for pension payments.

5. War Heroes' Parental Care Allowance Program

For the year 2024, Rs. 2,280 million is allocated for the payment of parental care allowance of Rs. 750/- per month for 253,333 parents of war heroes who lost their lives due to war.



6. Payment of Service Compensation on behalf of Disabled War Heroes

In the year 2024, Rs. 44,500 million has been allocated for the payment of service compensation to 41,800 beneficiaries including the members of the Tri-Services and Sri Lanka Police who were disabled from the terrorist activities and dependents of deceased war heroes.

7. Vocational Training Centers for Students with Different Abilities

An amount of Rs. 35 million has been allocated in the year 2024, for the infrastructure development of 08 Sinhala Language Medium Vocational Training Institutes, 02 Tamil Language Medium Training Institutes, and 01 English Medium Training Institutes operating under the Department of Social Services with the objective of empowering the differently abled youth and socializing them as participants in economic development through skill development.





Health Related Assistance

8. Supply of Medicines to Government Hospitals

According to recent data, government hospitals have provided healthcare services to 40 million out-door patients and 6 million in-patients per year. Rs. 180,300 million has been allocated through the 2024 estimate only for providing medicines and medical supplies required for patient treatment services at approximately 1300 hospitals and medical centers all over the island.



9. 1990 - Suvasarya Free Ambulance Service

According to approximate data 1990 Suvasarya Ambulance Service, which operates 24 hours a day, has provided services to 350,000 patients for a year. To further expand and maintain these services in 2024, provisions of Rs. 4,400 million has been allocated.



10. Nutrition Allowance Program for Expectant Mothers

Every pregnant mother registered in maternity clinics was given 10 vouchers worth Rs. 2,000 per month to obtain nutritious food items for 06 months during the pregnancy period and 04 months during the lactation period. It has been increased to Rs. 45,000 as 10 vouchers worth Rs. 4,500 per month from 2023. For the year 2024, Rs. 10,000 million in provisions has been allocated.



11. Triposha Programme

Triposha can be identified as a food supplement that is very high in nutritional value. All pregnant mothers, all lactating mothers up to 6 months, malnourished children (between 06 months and 05 years, children below the -2SD weight line, children showing rapid weight loss for 03 months as per child health and development record), ward patients belonging to the above groups are distributed 2 of 750g packets per month. In year 2024, Rs. 9,000 million has been allocated for this program.



12. Morning Meal Program for Preschool Children

This program is carried out, with the primary objective of meeting the nutritional needs of pre-school children suffering from nutritional deficiency. Special attention will be paid to fulfill the needs of approximately 155,000 preschool children (including 35,000 estate-based preschool children) in all divisional secretariat divisions of the island through this morning meal program. An amount of Rs. 2,102 million has been allocated for this program in the year 2024.



Education Related Assistance

13. Providing School Textbooks

The government is committed to providing free textbooks to approximately 4.2 million students, including those in government and government-aided schools, as well as clergy students in Piriven. For this initiative, Rs. 20,000 million has been allocated in 2024 to ensure the provision of school textbooks.



14. Providing School Uniforms

Uniforms are provided annually by the government for free to the approximately 4.5 million students, including those in government and government-aided schools, as well as clergy students in Piriven. Accordingly, Rs. 6,000 million has been allocated in 2024 for the provision of school uniforms.

15. Providing Shoes for School Students

This program offers gift vouchers for purchasing shoes to benefit the currently identified 750,000 students in remote, extremely remote, and isolated schools, as well as Piriven Bhikkhus and Seela maatha of Seelamaatha monasteries. An allocation of Rs. 2,540 million has been earmarked for this purpose in the year 2024.



16. Suraksha Student Insurance Program

“Suraksha” student insurance program will be implemented for all Sri Lankan lay-ordained students studying in all government schools, assisted schools, and pirivenas. Money will be reimbursed for hospitalization, medical examinations, etc. About 600,000 students will get this benefit annually and an allocation of Rs. 2,000 million has been provided for 2024



17. Scholarship Program for Grade 5 Students

Every year, 20,000 students are selected based on the results of the 5th-grade scholarship test to support children from low-income families who excel in learning, including 250 students with special needs. They will receive a monthly allowance of Rs. 750 up to the completion of their G.E.C. (A/L). In 2024, a provision of Rs 937.5 million has been earmarked for 135,000 scholarship winners from grade 6 to grade 13.

18. Award of Scholarships for Advanced Level Technology Subject

Students attending schools that offer new technical subject streams and come from low-income families receive a monthly allowance of Rs. 750 to assist in their ongoing education. An allocation of Rs. 10.5 million has been made in the 2024 annual budget estimates for this purpose.

Furthermore, the Sujata Diyani Scholarship Program provides an allowance to 250 female students from low-income families studying G.E.C. (A/L) technical streams to alleviate financial challenges. They receive Rs. 750 per month, and for the year 2024, a provision of Rs. 3.75 million has been allocated in the annual budget.



19. Mahapola Scholarship and Bursary Program

The Mahapola scholarship program for higher education offers a monthly stipend of Rs. 5,000 to eligible students from low-income families who are pursuing university and higher education. This program benefits nearly 64,000 scholarship recipients. In addition to contributions from the fund, the government also plays a role in providing Mahapola scholarships.

In addition to the Mahapola scholarship scheme, a bursary program has been implemented to provide financial support to university students, with the entire cost being covered by the government. Through the bursary program, 36,000 scholarship recipients will receive a monthly allowance of Rs. 4,000. In the year 2024, an allocation of Rs. 2,500 million has been made to provide Mahapola and bursaries to nearly 100,000 students.

20. Interest-free Loan Scheme for Students Pursuing Degree Courses in Non-Government Higher Education Institutions

The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with non-state higher education institutions, has introduced an interest-free loan scheme of Rs. 800,000 for students who do not secure admission to state universities after passing G.E.C. (A/L). This loan facilitates their pursuit of degree courses in non-state higher education institutions. A total of 18,000 students have benefited from this loan scheme, and Rs. 2,000 million has been allocated in the 2024 budget estimate for its continued implementation.

Furthermore, an additional interest-free student loan of Rs. 300,000 is also provided to cover other educational-related expenditures of the students.



21. Allowance for Pre-School Teachers (Guru Abhimani)

Rs. 550 million has been allocated in the year 2024 to pay the “Guru Abhimani” allowance of Rs. 2,500 per month for 18,000 preschool teachers to enhance the quality of the preschool sector and evaluate the service of preschool teachers by identifying preschool teachers as a key stakeholder in human resource development.

22. School Nutrition Program

This programme is implemented under the theme of healthy and active offspring and with the aim of minimizing nutrition related issues among children, improving daily attendance of students, developing good health and food habits and building a local food culture. Accordingly, Rs 16,700 million has been allocated to provide lunch for 1,082,000 students of grade 1 to 5 of selected schools.



23. Facilitate to Dhamma school teachers

Rs. 635 million has been allocated through the 2024 budget to provide an allowance of Rs.5000 each for more than 125,000 teachers as an appreciation of the service of the teachers who have served with dedication in Dhamma schools for a long time.

24. Skilled Student Encouragement Scholarship Program for Students Pursuing Vocational Education

A provision of Rs. 700 million rupees has been allocated in the year 2024 to provide vocational education to 65,300 school leavers from economically low-income families.





Agriculture and Plantation Assistance

25. Tea Cultivation Subsidy

A subsidy of Rs. 750,000 per hectare for replanting and Rs. 500,000 per hectare for new plantations, covering areas from 20 perches up to a maximum of one acre is provided under the Tea Subsidy Program through the Small Tea Estate Development Authority until the incomes of farmers engaged in replanting or new cultivation are confirmed. In the year 2024, the government has allocated Rs. 500 million to support beneficiaries through this program.



26. Subsidies for Rubber Cultivation and Related Industries

In addition to offering extension services for rubber cultivation, the Rubber Development Department has implemented a subsidy program for rubber replanting, new planting, application of rain covers, and inter-cropping. A total of Rs. 500 million has been allocated for this subsidy program in the year 2024.

27. Coconut Cultivation Subsidy

Various initiatives such as the distribution of high-quality coconut plants, providing fertilizer subsidies, support for land preparation, and offering subsidized loans will be undertaken through this subsidy scheme to promote coconut cultivation. An allocation of Rs. 500 million has been made for these programs in the year 2024.



28. Non-Conventional Export Crop Subsidy

The government has initiated subsidy programs to promote the cultivation of minor export crops such as vanilla, pepper, coffee, cloves, nutmeg, and cocoa through the Department of Export Agriculture. These programs include the provision of high-quality certified plants at subsidized prices, entrepreneurial assistance, and extension services. In the year 2024, an allocation of 400 million rupees has been earmarked for these initiatives

29. Fertilizer Subsidy

The Fertilizer Subsidy Program aims to achieve multiple objectives, including increasing the productivity of paddy production, providing agricultural inputs at subsidized prices, and ensuring food security. Presently, the government has decided to offer this subsidy directly to farmers as financial support. In the 2024 annual budget estimates, a provision of 19,500 million rupees has been allocated to support paddy cultivation in both the Yala and Maha seasons, for a maximum of two hectares.



30. Agricultural Insurance Scheme

An indemnity of Rs. 40,000 per acre is offered to mitigate the damages to paddy, maize, potato, chili, onion, and soya bean. The contributory agriculture insurance scheme covers a maximum of two hectares for paddy cultivation and one hectare for other crops. Currently, the entire cost of this crop damage program is borne by the government. In the budget estimates for the year 2024, a provision of Rs. 1,000 million has been allocated for this purpose.



Transport Sector

31. Concessional Season Tickets

Rs. 10,500 million has been allocated through the 2024 budget for travel tickets for school, higher education, technical, and vocational education students. Under this, 487,000 school students, 7,000 higher education students, and about 31,000 vocational education and technical students will get relief.



32. Providing Subsidies for SLTB

The government has allocated 2,000 million rupees to SLTB for the maintenance of SLTB buses on economically unprofitable routes to facilitate the travel of people living in rural areas and 2,000 million rupees for maintenance of the bus services of Sisu Sariya, Gami Sariya, and Nisi Sariya for the year 2024.



Sports Related

33. Facilitating Players and Youngsters

Rs. 277 million is provided for providing residential and nutrition facilities to the high performing athletes in the National Sports Training Squad, Rs. 100 million is provided for facilitating Sri Lankan athletes to participate in international competitions, and Rs. 2,677 million is provided for conducting free courses on skill development of youth for the year 2024 for facilitating players and youngsters.



Looking after Artists, Journalists, and Authors

34. Assistance Program for Artists

In the year 2024, 48 million rupees have been allocated to implement welfare programs such as providing medical aid to artists who have become helpless for the service performed by contributing to the art sector.





35. Providing Assistance for Writers

This program aims to encourage writers who publish books on various subjects in Sinhala, Tamil, and English and to provide support to sell their books by purchasing their publications. The books thus obtained are distributed free of charge to schools and libraries on the island. In the year 2024, rupees 5 million have been allocated for this purpose.

36. The Program to Aid Traditional Art Institutions

Rs. 6 million has been allocated in the year 2024 To classify the art institutions registered in the Department of Culture as high-grade, excellent-grade, and general-grade traditional art institutions and to encourage those institutions.



Development Assistance

37. Encouraging Women Entrepreneurs

A provision of Rs. 174 million has been allocated for the year 2024, for women entrepreneurship financing, under the Small and Medium Enterprises Loan Scheme.

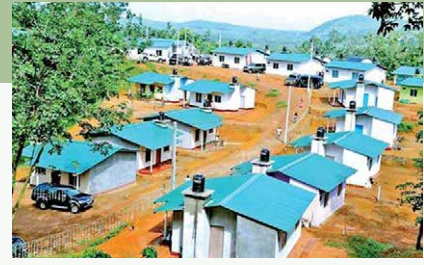


38. Interest Subsidy on Property Loans of Public Servants

Property loans of government employees are provided by government banks at a subsidized rate of interest, and the government has to pay the subsidized interest amount to the banks on behalf of those employees. A provision of Rs. 2,521 million has been allocated through the 2024 estimates in this regard.

39. Provision of Housing and Infrastructure for the Estate Community

The provision of houses and infrastructure to the people living near the estates has already started. For speedy completion of this housing program Rs. 4,625 million has been allocated for the 2024 budget year.



40. Urban Low-Income Housing

3,200 million rupees has been allocated by the 2024 budget estimate to provide housing facilities for low-income earners in the areas of Peliyagoda, Dematagoda, Maharagama, Moratuwa, and Kottawa.

41. Provision of Houses for Resettlement

The construction of 6,759 housing units has started in the Northern and Eastern Provinces for those who lost their homes due to the conflicts in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. Rs. 2,000 million has been allocated for that for the year 2024



42. Housing for All Programme

The construction of 18,528 housing units for rural and urban low-income families has been started, and Rs. 2,000 million has been allocated for the construction of 1,671 housing units in that program to be given to the beneficiaries after completing further activities.



CITIZENS BUDGET 2024 FOR WAHT, FOR WHOM

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