

Introduction

Some Background Information

The Southern province has a vast potential for development. Neglected by successive governments over the years, the Southern Province today is one of the most under developed areas in the island.

Southern Province comprises of 1/5th of the total land area in Sri Lanka. The Southern region has a total population of 1,882,912. This is 12.7% of the total population of the country. The urban population in the Southern Province is 2811,000 which amounts to 14.9% of the total population of the Province. This is comparatively low when compared with the national average of 21%.

neglected areas. Thus, the economy of the Southern region which is primarily agricultural and predominantly rural in character has been relatively stagnant during the past several decades. The region has not received sufficient priority in terms of investments, despite the fact that educational attainments and literacy rates have been relatively higher in this region.

In terms of the 1981 Census of Population, the Southern Province has one of the highest rates of unemployment. The national rate of unemployment was 17.9% (1981). But the rate of the Southern province is much higher.

Galle	- 27.4%
Matara	- 28.0%
Hambantota	- 18.6%
National Avg.	- 17.9%

Summary of Southern Development Plan

* The Galle harbour will be developed and linked to an International airport to be developed at Eraminiyaya in order to make the South both a major transshipment point as well as a sea and air hub.

* The Southern Industrial Processing Zone (SIPZ) would be established at Koggala and the hinterland around the harbour and the airport will be developed industrially including an industrial estate at Weerawila airport area.

* The Eraminiyaya International Airport (EIA) will enable tourist development and airfreighting of agricultural and marine products.

* The Samanalawewa hydro power project to produce 140 MW of power increasing the country's installed capacity by 12%.

* A coal powered hydro power project would be established at Chandrikawewa.

* Kukule and Jasime complex of reservoirs would generate low cost power for industrial development.

* Infrastructure facilities in the region will be strengthened with Galle harbour development.

* A gem and jewellery industrial park to be established at Ratnapura.

* A new highway linking Colombo - Galle 15 kms away from the coastline to run through Horana, Elpitiya, Baddegama, Galle to Eraminiyaya from where it would continue to Wellawaya via Embilipitiya.

* The railway from Matara to be extended to Kataragama.

* Establish a safari park and a large aquarium as a tourist attraction.

* Vavulupene caverns near Embilipitiya will be developed.

* Beaches from Kalutara to Galle and Tangalle - Hambantota to be developed.

* Fisheries development including prawn culture in Southern lagoons (Galle/Tangalle/Hambantota inclusive)

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Galle District - (637.6 sq. miles)	(163,560 ha)	= 2.75% of the land area of the country
Matara District -	(128,795 ha)	= 1.00% of the land area of the country
Hambantota District - (1620 sq. mi)	(262,413 ha)	= 4.00% of the land area of the country
	544,768 ha	= 7.75% of the land area of the country
Density - Galle District	= 498 persons per sq. km	
Matara District	= 599 persons per sq. km	
Hambantota district	= 383 persons per sq. km	
Unemployment - Galle District	= 27.4% unemployment rate	
Matara District	= 28.0% unemployment rate	
Hambantota District	= 18.6% unemployment rate	

The economy of the Southern Province is dominated by coconut, rubber, cinnamon, king coconut, fisheries, distilleries, citronella, and tourism. There are hardly any industries in the Southern region. Agriculture, livestock, fisheries, industries, infrastructure are other

The Unemployment Rates by Age and District

District	Total ages	All %	10-14	15-19	20-24
Galle	68949	26	2.7	20.4	32
Matara	54723	27.3	2.2	19.5	34.3
H' tota	24723	18.6	4.5	23.1	36.8

Source: Census of Population 1981

Table I

Regional Distribution of Poverty (selected indicators)

Region	%house less than 250 sq. ft	% households in lowest quartile of expenditure	PQLI 1971	1970-73	Nutrition status composite index
	(1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Colombo (Urban)					
Colombo (Rural)					
Gampaha	21.6	21.6	85.3	83.5	8.5
Kalutara					
Kandy, Nuwara Eliya	33.7	29.2	69.5	67.5	3.0
K'galle Ratnapura	35.3	33.2	80.2	77.5	4.7
Matale, Badulla	39.0	29.9	75.2	72.5	3.5
Galle, Matara	32.3	29.4	86.4	83.5	8
Tangalle, Puttalam	34.2	21.9	85.5	82.5	4
Monaragala, Hambantota	39.1	29.2	82.5	78.5	4.2

Sources: (1) Morrison 7 Waxler (1986) Table 3 p. 103
 (2) Sumanasekera (1981) Appendix Table A2 p. 39 A3 p.40
 (3) Morrison Waxler (1986) Table 1 p.99
 (4) Ministry of Plan Implementation (1984) Table 6 p. 30 Table 19, p. 40