



Highways and roads under construction in the North. ANCL File Photo

Access to Uthuru Vasanthaya via Negenahira Navodaya

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President Mahinda Rajapaksa who heralded a new era in the East is in the midst of opening new vistas to the North as well for its future prosperity through his brainchild, *Uthuru Vasanthaya*. Infrastructure facilities are being provided to the people in the North and East whose lives were wrecked by the LTTE during the past three decades.

The herculean task of giving a new lease of life to the North and East is being executed under the stewardship of Senior Presidential Advisor, MP, Basil Rajapaksa. The economic potentials in the East played a vital role from early times in strengthening Sri Lanka's national economy. The Eastern landscape is unique in character since the nature has endowed it with golden beaches, a natural harbour in Trincomalee, tourist destinations in Potuwil and Panama and the much important Ampara-Samanthurai-Akkaraipattu 'Rice Bowl'.

Until its recent liberation, all these economic power houses had been brought under their control by the LTTE terrorists. The road network in the East is being redeveloped by the Government with a heavy capital outlay. Of the Moneragala-Siyambalanduwa-Lahugala-Potuwil A-4 main road to

the East, a stretch of 71 kilometres is being redeveloped at a cost of Rs. 3,487 million under funds provided by the European Commission and Asian Development Bank. A sum of Rs. 694 million has been spent for the completion of an extent of 17 kilometres on the Potuwil-Panama road. The work is in progress.

The 160 metre new Arugam Bay bridge constructed at a cost of Rs. 1,155 million under aid provided by the American Government was opened by President Mahinda Rajapaksa recently.

Under Asian Development Bank aid amounting to Rs. 264.45 million a stretch of 8.2 kilometres on the B002 road from Akkaraipattu to Sagamam is being constructed. The World Bank has provided a block sum of Rs. 1021.9 million to develop 20.55 kilometers on the A031 road from Ampara to Kartivu and 33.27 kilometers on A025 Siyambalanduwa - Ampara road. A 18.45 metre long bridge on A04 Potuwil-Batticaloa road (Rs. 18 million), the 420 metre long Kodidaikallar new bridge (Rs. 348 million) and the 353 metre long Periyakallar new bridge (Rs. 414 million) constructed from funds provided by the Japanese Government were opened in December 2006. The new Kalladi bridge on the A15 Batticaloa-Tricondiadimadu-Trincomalee road at a cost

of Rs. 3,806.8 million financed by the JAICA (Japanese) aid is under construction.

In addition, in place of the old Oddamawaddi bridge across Valachchenai lagoon, a 250 metre long new bridge is being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 700 million. A stretch of 19.26 kilometres on the All Trikondiadamu-Manampitiya-Jayan-

Already, a large portion of the main road across Jayanthipura-Habarana-Polonnaruwa connecting Raja Rata with the Eastern Province has been carpeted and the balance work is being completed at a total cost of Rs. 454 million provided by the World Bank. The construction of a stretch of 99 kilometres on the A 15 Trikondiamadu - Trincomalee road and 41

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A 302 metre long new bridge at Manampitiya in place of the old bridge which served the railway as well constructed at a cost of Rs. 1,322 million funded by the Japanese Government was opened recently by President Mahinda Rajapaksa. It has greatly facilitated the transport needs of the Eastern people.

kilometre on the B 010, Ella - Kantale road is another mega road development project launched by the Highways and Road Development Ministry with funds amounting to Rs. 9102.5 million being provided by the French Government.

Under the Batticaloa-Tricondiadamu-Trincomalee and Ella-Kantale road development program work on the 100 metre long Werugal new bridge, 180 meter long Kayankoni new

bridge, 250 meter long Gangai new bridge, a 250 meter long Upparu bridge have been commenced under Asian Development Bank aid package totalling to Rs. 9102/59 million. These new bridges were designed to replace the Road Development Authority - managed ferry service on the A15 road.

The Saudi government funded 416 meter long bridge at Kinniya ferry, one of the longest in the Eastern Province estimated to cost Rs. 710 million is nearing completion at present.

Under the *Negenahira Navodaya* program a series of new projects to upgrade the entire road network within the Trincomalee town area, and the B 424 Trincomalee - Pulmudai road and to construct new bridges to replace existing ferries are being implemented.

The Spanish government aid have been channelled to construct the Irakkandi, Puduwaikattu and Yan Oya new bridges, while Asian Development Bank funds are being utilized for road development from Trincomalee to Pulmudai.

A stretch of 15 kilometres on the B 60 Pulmudai-Bogahawewa road is being completed under Asian Development Fund aid totalling to Rs. 489 million. The Bogahawewa road links up the road network in the East with that of the North via Sripura Medawachchiya-Jaffna on A

009 Medawachchiya-Mannar on A 14. The necessary renovations to the A 29 road from Pulmudai to Padaviya, Sripura to Kebutigollewa to Vavuniya have already been undertaken.

A large network of roads, culverts including A 29 linking Horowpatana with Vavuniya town, A 30 Vavuniya-Mannar (the Medawachchiya-Mannar portion), A 9 Vavuniya-Jaffna via Kilinochchi, A 34 Mankulam to Mullaitivu via Oddusudan, A 35 Mullaitivu-Paranthan via Pudukudurippu and A 32 Mannar to Jaffna via Pooneryn within the recently liberated Vavuniya, Mannar, Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi and Jaffna districts in the North has also to be developed shortly.

The development of the road network has been found essential to ensure the smooth resettlement of displaced families in the North and East who were liberated by the Government at tremendous cost and sacrifice from the tyranny of the LTTE and to deliver the message of peace, harmony and prosperity to the people through *Negenahira Navodaya* and Uthuru Vasanthaya within a relatively shorter period of time. For all these achievements, we should be ever grateful to President Mahinda Rajapaksa, Heads of Armed Forces, Inspector General of Police, Civil Defence Force Chief and all our war heroes.