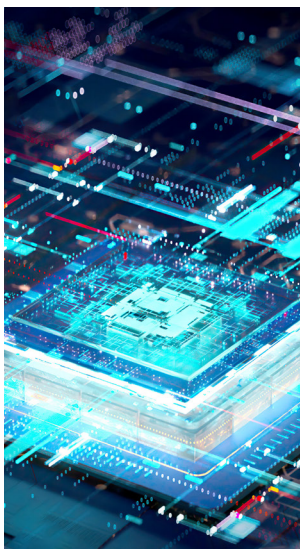
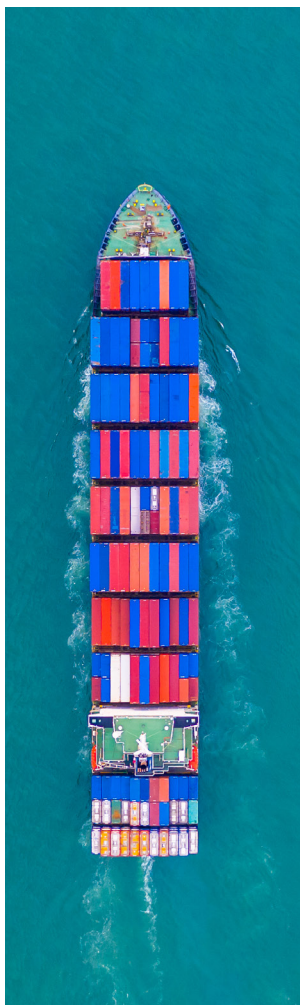




POLICY FRAMEWORK IN ENGINEERING SECTORS

CONCEPT PAPERS FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Groundbreakers 5.0 | Elevating Sri Lanka | Engineering the Future



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தேசிய மக்கள் சக்தி
JATHIKA JANA BALAWEGAYA (NPP)

NPP strongly believes in the importance of stakeholder consultations and in-depth public discussions on national policies and strategies to gather opinions and feedback, ensuring their proper integration into a national mandate.

The concept papers related to engineering sector policies presented herewith are prepared by the NPP Engineering Professional Sector Committees with contributions from numerous academics, entrepreneurs, industrialists, and utility experts.

For more details on these concept papers, please visit our weblink. We encourage you to engage with the NPP sector committees and contribute to this remarkable journey towards a new national renaissance.



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concept papers



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POLICY FRAMEWORK IN ENGINEERING SECTORS

CONCEPT PAPERS FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

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CONSTRUCTION

Introduction

The construction industry is an important economic driver. Before the economic downturn in 2022, the sector contributed 7% to the country's GDP and provided jobs to over a million individuals with diverse skill sets. Despite its difficulties, the industry has growth potential.

The sector's demand comprises investments in infrastructure projects by the government and private entities. Due to the shrinking economy, the industry faces a crisis due to a lack of above investments. In the past, the government invested heavily in construction projects using funds borrowed from the private sector and multilateral funding agencies. However, the expected returns from these projects did not materialize, contributing to the country's debt crisis.

Most contractors and consultants in the construction industry are from the private sector, while few government-owned establishments are underperforming due to political interference and corruption.

Established under the **"Construction Industry Development Act of 2014,"** CIDA is the governing body of the construction industry, mandated to promote a reliable and competent construction sector aligned with global standards. Its mission includes providing strategic leadership and professional services through a national construction policy, regulations, capacity building, and the promotion of quality standards for sustainable national development. Additionally, CIDA manages the Construction Industry Development Fund.

Inefficiencies within procurement, poor project management practices, political interference, corruption, and projects that launch without proper financial allocations pose significant challenges to the industry's stability. These issues compromise the quality and integrity of construction projects and lead to delays,

Vision

To create a dynamic, competitive, and ethically responsible construction industry that adheres to global standards of excellence and drives sustainable social and economic prosperity, with a firm commitment to transparency, zero tolerance for corruption, and ensuring workforce welfare and well-being. Achieving these objectives will provide an environment where all contractors and consultants can compete equally and are supported to thrive both domestically and internationally.

cost overruns, and suboptimal outcomes. A significant skill gap in modern project management techniques and a shortage of skilled workers adversely affect the industry. The sector has poor job security and inadequate worker welfare, posing significant challenges that need immediate attention.

Limited access to project financing poses significant hurdles for small and medium entrepreneurs to enter the industry, resulting in restrained competition.

Furthermore, a lack of research and development hampers innovation in cost-effective materials and technologies. Outdated codes, specifications and design standards further block the sector's growth.

The ongoing brain drain has caused a lack of expertise, hindering its ability to function and improve.

Addressing these systemic issues is imperative for revitalizing the construction industry and enhancing its contribution to national development. To achieve this, a carefully drafted policy framework is essential. This framework should focus on improving the sector's human resources and provisions for implementing the necessary regulations, capacity building and quality standards for sustainable national development.

The policy framework should prioritize overhauling procurement practices to promote transparency and fairness and eliminate political interference. This will ensure that contracts are awarded based on merit and capability, which is crucial for restoring stakeholder confidence and enabling fair competition.

Stabilizing material costs with predictable fluctuations and securing a reliable supply chain is vital to mitigating contractors' financial risks. Streamlining financial allocations for government projects will help ensure timely payments to contractors, easing their financial pressures and facilitating the timely completion of projects.

Investing in training and development is essential to enhancing the skills of all parties. This involves incorporating modern project management techniques and new technologies and updating the specifications and design codes to improve operational efficiency and keep up with technological development.

Improved job security, competitive salaries, and better employment conditions can make the construction sector more attractive and reduce the brain drain. Easing the access to finances needed for bonds and guarantees can make the industry more accessible for SMEs.

Principles

- Maintain a balanced approach in which the government's primary role is to monitor, support, and regulate the construction sector to achieve planned goals and foster a thriving economy.
- Government investments in physical infrastructure will be derived from projects identified and approved by the central planning division. Incorporating architectural inputs is essential to create a well-designed, functional, sustainable built environment. This process will be underpinned by a strong commitment to transparent and fair procurement practices to optimize infrastructure development.
- Fair competition between all local construction entities is ensured.
- The role of the public sector construction entities in national disaster situations and workforce training is recognized.
- Regulated engagement of international firms in the construction sector under specific conditions to ensure that domestic interests are protected while benefiting from international expertise and investment.
- The skill gaps within the industry are eliminated by providing specialized training, including advanced project management and contract management skills, ensuring the workforce is equipped to meet current and future challenges.
- Establish a dedicated research and development division within the construction industry to explore and adopt innovative technologies and sustainable materials. This division will prepare and update design guidelines, codes, and specifications to modernize the industry in line with global developments and international standards.
- Integrate environmental responsibility into all construction projects by requiring thorough assessments of environmental impacts and promoting the sustainable extraction and utilization of natural resources.
- Establishment of specialized financial institutions to meet the unique needs of the construction sector to facilitate obtaining financing options, bonds, and insurance with ease.
- A holistic approach to worker welfare that includes job security, equitable remuneration, opportunities for skill development, and conducive working environments to improve the quality of employment within the sector.
- Proactively disseminate information related to project selection, approval, prioritization, and initiation schedules to all stakeholders, enabling informed decision-making and transparency.

Goals and Objectives

1. Strengthen the national economy and drive economic growth through strategic and well-planned government infrastructure investments.
2. Provide training facilities to enhance skilled construction employment for local and overseas markets.
3. Ensure transparency and accountability in the construction industry.
4. Expand the industry into international markets.
5. Ensure fair distribution of economic benefits from the sector across the population.
6. Ensure all construction designs are environmentally friendly.
7. Systematically regulate all construction projects to ensure sustainability and the application of green concepts.

Actions

- Review and revise, if necessary, the Construction Industry Development Act.
- Introduce a comprehensive code of ethics for all construction industry stakeholders to promote ethical and environmentally friendly practices.
- Establish an organization to coordinate and regulate all construction training institutes in the country, set up vocational training hubs by district, and standardize technical education and training for the industry.
- Establish a dedicated arbitration center and a pool of arbitrators to expedite construction dispute resolution.
- Start implementing an electronic bidding system in stages for procurement to increase participation by local bidders.
- Fully implement policies giving a margin of preference to local entrepreneurs in international bidding.
- Establish an independent commission of scholars and professionals to prioritize and recommend major construction projects, ensuring alignment with national development plans.
- Complete the restructuring of government institutions to ensure adherence to a uniform procurement policy and eliminate unsolicited proposals.
- Train technical staff in the government and private sector in estimating and procurement processes to enhance the capabilities of all players. Focusing on enhancing their expertise in modern project management and contract management practices.

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DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY v0.3.1

Introduction

Even though the previous governments had set an IT industry foreign revenue target of \$5 billion by 2020, which was later revised to \$5 billion by 2022 and again revised as \$3 billion by 2025, the industry has failed to reach those targets. Currently, the industry contributes around US \$1.2 billion in foreign revenue and employs approximately 85,000 professionals.

One of Sri Lanka's key strengths lies in its skilled workforce, comprising talented, educated, and trainable professionals. The country also enjoys cost competitiveness compared to developed nations, with lower labor and cost of living expenses. Additionally, its strategic location allows it to effectively serve clients in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. The country's pleasant living conditions, including a relatively green and pleasant climate, further enhance its appeal to global IT professionals.

Despite these strengths, Sri Lanka faces challenges in retaining its skilled workforce, with many seeking opportunities abroad, resulting in a brain drain. The education system is also outdated and slow to align with the evolving needs of the IT industry, leading to a skill gap. Moreover, limited funding and investment in startups and research and development (R&D) hinder innovation and growth. Infrastructure constraints, including unreliable power supply, inadequate internet connectivity, and transportation issues, pose additional challenges.

Sri Lanka's IT industry has significant growth opportunities. The global IT services market is expanding rapidly, with projections reaching USD 9,039 billion in 2024 and a CAGR of 11.0% by 2028. Technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), data analytics, Internet of Things (IoT), Blockchain and cybersecurity offer avenues for growth and innovation. With wider adoption in advancements of AI a new wave of opportunities are being created requiring new skill sets. Sri Lanka must join this wave. The rise of freelancing and remote work presents new opportunities for Sri Lankan IT professionals to collaborate with global clients as well as foreign

Vision

Our vision is to transform Sri Lanka to be a globally recognised high-value IT products and services destination earning significant foreign exchange for the country and enhancing the lives of all Sri Lankans through better adoption of technology in both industry and government.

IT Professionals to work from Sri Lanka. Public-private partnerships can also accelerate infrastructure development and address industry needs.

To address these challenges and capitalize on emerging opportunities, we propose a comprehensive Policy framework. This policy framework aims to rebrand Sri Lanka's IT industry as a hub for high-value IT products and services, significantly increasing foreign revenue both through volume and increased average billing rates, and foster innovation through robust support for technology driven startups and research and development (R&D). Key interventions will include rapid digitization of government services, the development of a national AI policy, the establishment of IT parks and R&D centers across the country, and the creation of favorable conditions to attract foreign direct investments (FDIs) and global collaborations.

Principles

- **Innovation-Driven Growth:** Promote innovation through strategic investments in R&D and startups, fostering a culture of entrepreneurship and creativity.
- **Workforce Development:** Enhance numbers and capabilities of the IT workforce through targeted training and educational programs to meet future industry demands.
- **Digital Transformation:** Implement comprehensive digitization programs across government institutions to improve efficiency, transparency, and accessibility.
- **Global Competitiveness:** Rebrand Sri Lanka as a premier destination for high-value IT products and services to attract global IT companies and investors.
- **Sustainable Development:** Ensure IT industry growth aligns with broader goals of sustainable economic development and improved living standards.
- **Inclusivity and Equity:** Create opportunities for all segments of society to benefit from the digital economy, addressing regional disparities and promoting social equity.
- **International Collaboration:** Foster international partnerships to access advanced technologies, best practices, and new markets.
- **Infrastructure Enhancement:** Develop world-class infrastructure to support the growth and competitiveness of the IT industry.

Goals and Objectives | 2025-2030

1. Increase annual revenue of the IT industry from \$1.2Bn to \$5Bn by 2030.
2. Increase the workforce from 85,000 to 150,000 by 2030.
3. Develop the startup ecosystem to be able to produce at least two Unicorns by 2030.
4. Build 4 IT R&D centers with the latest technologies and competent staff in 4 major Universities in Western, Northern, Southern, and Eastern provinces.
5. Build 4 IT parks in 4 provinces; Western, Northern, Southern, and Eastern.
6. Rapid digitization programs for all government institutions to increase their efficiency and make them paperless.
7. Establishing and evolving necessary legal and policy frameworks for a digital economy to operate effectively, efficiently, and safely.

Key Activities

The program is structured around key intervention areas aimed at achieving the outlined goals and objectives. Each intervention area includes a set of broad actions, along with targets and timeframes for implementation.

First Year

- **Rebrand the IT Industry:** Launch a global marketing campaign to promote Sri Lanka as a hub for high-value IT products and services, showcasing the country's strengths and success stories. This rebranding effort will involve strategic partnerships, international events, and promotion to attract global attention and investment.
- **KPIs for Foreign Missions:** Utilize Sri Lanka's foreign missions to actively promote the IT industry to foreign clientele, setting specific KPIs for each mission to achieve in terms of business leads, partnerships, and investment attracted. This will involve coordinated efforts with embassies and consulates to showcase Sri Lanka's IT capabilities at international forums and business meetings. This to be jointly done with IT industry bodies.
- **Start-Up Fund:** Establish a startup and R&D fund to support local innovation and entrepreneurship, providing financial resources and mentorship to promising ventures. This fund will aim to nurture a vibrant startup ecosystem, encouraging the development of cutting-edge technologies and business models.
Invite regional Venture Capital companies to setup offices in Sri Lanka to invest and assist in their growth.

- **Government Digitization:** Initiate digitization projects in major government institutions to improve efficiency and service delivery, aiming to create a more transparent and responsive public sector. This will include the deployment of digital platforms for citizen services, streamlining administrative processes, and enhancing data management systems.

A special stream of support will be made available to Sri Lankan software companies, new startups and joint-ventures with global leaders to be part of this program.

- **Policy and Regulatory Framework:** identify the issues in our existing policies and bring in the new policies that are required to attract FDIs, intellectual property rights, privacy & data, labor laws, bankruptcy, venture capital, etc.
- **National AI Policy:** Develop and implement a national AI policy, focusing on creating a national AI system to enhance government services and drive technological innovation. This policy will set guidelines for ethical AI use, data privacy, and the integration of AI technologies in various public sectors.

2-3 Years

- **Human Resource Development:** Implement training programs and educational initiatives to increase the IT workforce to 150,000 by 2030, focusing on skill development and industry-relevant competencies by updating course content to reflect the latest technological advancements and providing professional development opportunities for educators. Upskill the existing engineers and bring in foreign expert resources to conduct train-the-trainer programs.
- **Incentive Programs for IT Companies:** Establish a comprehensive incentive program to encourage IT companies to adopt R&D and innovation, increase foreign earnings, and retain the IT workforce within the country. This program will offer tax incentives, grants, and support for collaborative projects, making Sri Lanka an attractive destination for IT investments and career opportunities.
- **Unicorn Creation:** Initiate the program to develop IT unicorns through sustained investment in innovation and entrepreneurship, creating globally recognized companies. This will involve nurturing a supportive ecosystem, providing access to capital, and facilitating international market entry. Globally recognised startup accelerators will be invited to set up in Sri Lanka to nurture fledgling startups and connect them to global opportunities.
- **International Collaboration:** Forge partnerships with global IT companies and research institutions to bring advanced technologies and best practices to Sri Lanka, enhancing the country's competitive edge. These collaborations will facilitate knowledge transfer, joint ventures, and access to new markets, boosting the growth of the IT sector.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

- **Supporting thrust industries:** A program will be established to support other thrust industries that's expected to play a significant role in improving the Sri Lankan economy to leverage the full potential of digital technology. This demand can be satisfied by new startups, existing software companies or new joint ventures with global technology leaders.

4-5+ Years

- **Regional R&D Centers and IT Parks:** Establish R&D centers and IT parks in the Western, Northern, Eastern, and Southern provinces to promote regional growth and innovation. These facilities will provide state-of-the-art infrastructure, fostering collaboration between academia, industry, and startups to drive technological advancements. Open private-public partnership opportunities between global technology industry, leading universities in the world and local technology industry with local universities to ensure both local & global relevance of these R&D centers.
- **National AI System for Government Services:** Build a national AI system to enable citizens to obtain government services easily and in any language, enhancing accessibility and user experience. This system will integrate AI-driven solutions to streamline interactions with government agencies and provide multilingual support.
- **Sustainable Infrastructure Development:** Continuously improve IT infrastructure to support ongoing industry growth and competitiveness, including high-speed internet, data centers, improving power and energy supply, public transportation, and smart city initiatives. This will ensure that Sri Lanka remains at the forefront of technological innovation and is well-equipped to meet future demands.
- **Industry 4.0/5.0:** adopting IT to transform industries with advanced digital technologies and automation. Further, Industry 5.0 enables industries to provide more personalized products and services to the end customer using IT.

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ENERGY

This concept paper outlines the wisdom of National People's Power regarding the energy sector, a critical pillar of Sri Lanka's socioeconomic framework. We invite all stakeholders to engage and share their opinions and consultations on the proposed energy policy, which will be compiled and presented to the public to secure a national mandate.

Objective

The ultimate objective of these policy measures is to build an **Equitable and Sustainable Energy System for our present and future generations**.

The energy supply essential to boost the **production economy** to recover from the current economic crisis will be ensured and supplied from the least cost sources developed through **competitive procurement**.

Fundamental Principles

Systems for production, supply, distribution, and utilization of energy will be established based on four (4) fundamental principles.

1. Energy supply shall be an **essential national service**.
2. Energy supply shall be **secure**.
3. Energy supply and consumption shall be **sustainable**.
4. Energy economy shall be made a **source of foreign income**.

1. Energy Supply as an Essential National Service

Energy will be treated as an Essential National Service.

Providing a continuous, reliable, and convenient supply of clean and quality sources of energy at a reasonable and affordable price to the public, industries and commercial entities is a national responsibility crucial to uplift the quality of life of the society and achieve economic prosperity of the nation.

2. Energy Security

Energy Security is considered a top priority.

Proactive mechanisms will be established to assure the continuity of energy supply in the event of any social, economic, financial, geo-political, or technological transition, instability, or conflict.

3. Energy Sustainability

Sustainability is of paramount importance in all energy developments.

By committing to clean and sustainable energy sources, impacts of energy production on the environment will be minimized and the ability of future generations to meet their energy needs will be preserved.

4. Energy as a Source of Foreign Income

Future energy supply and demand will be managed in the most economical and efficient ways.

By establishing mechanisms to win opportunities in the international energy market to strengthen the national economy, the current energy economy associated with large foreign expenses will be transformed into a source of foreign income.

Main Attributes

This energy policy for a sustainable energy system is structured along eight (8) main attributes based on the above-mentioned fundamental principles.

1. Availability, Accessibility and Expandability
2. Continuity, Reliability and Resilience
3. Systematic pricing, Affordability and Equity
4. Efficiency and Conservation
5. Indigenous and New energy resources
6. Social, Economic and Environmental impacts
7. Smart utilities, Consumer empowerment, and Independent regulation
8. Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Investment opportunities

1. Availability, Accessibility and Expandability

Improve the availability and accessibility for continuous, reliable, and convenient supply of clean and quality primary and secondary energy sources at an affordable price to all customer categories in the domestic, industrial, and commercial sectors.

Facilitate expandability of the energy supply and distribution networks with empowered institutional, legal, social, and regulatory procedures and provisions.

2. Continuity, Reliability and Resilience

Assure the continuity and reliability of primary and secondary energy sources at all times, including in the event of any social, economic, financial, geo-political, technological transition, instability, or conflict.

Develop preparedness and resilience capabilities against potential future disruptions to energy supply by catastrophic environmental events and cyber-physical disturbances.

3. Systematic pricing, Affordability and Equity

Formulate a transparent and fair pricing scheme for primary and secondary energy sources considering affordability for consumers, energy equity, competitive edge of national products and services in international markets, financial viability of the utilities, and impact on the national economy.

4. Efficiency and Conservation

Improve the efficiency of energy supply, management, conversion, transmission, distribution, and operation processes by lowering both technical and commercial losses.

Promote energy conservation strategies and reward best energy practices of all stakeholders from utility to consumers.

5. Indigenous and New energy resources

Enhance the utilization of indigenous energy resources to achieve the optimum energy mix to reduce the dependency on imported primary energy resources.

Explore the future possibilities in new energy resources such as green hydrogen and Small Modular Reactors (SMR) while accelerating additions of the planned renewable and hybrid energy systems, pumped storage hydro power plants and battery energy storage systems.

6. Social, Economic and Environmental impacts

Assess the impact to the society, economy and environment in implementation, operation and maintenance of all energy development, construction and supply projects and schemes and take prompt measures to mitigate risks and avoid negative impacts on these sectors.

7. Smart Utilities, Consumer empowerment, and Independent regulation

Uplift the quality, professionalism, accountability, responsibility, and transparency in all processes of utilities in the energy sector and improve customer care through advanced technologies.

Empower customers by improving energy literacy to become smart stakeholders in the energy sector.

Establish a highly professional and independent energy sector regulation with a sustainable energy policy, strategic action plan, licensing and regulatory framework, pricing mechanism and formal inspection and audit processes.

8. Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Investment opportunities

Foster research and development on innovative energy solutions and new energy industries among national universities and entrepreneurs.

Facilitate national energy businesses, entrepreneurs, and researchers to explore the opportunities in winning a significant share of the international energy economy.

Attract appropriate investments to build and develop a sustainable energy system in Sri Lanka.

Key Targets

The following key targets have been set to achieve the objectives of this energy policy in a timeline scheduled as immediate (within first year), short term (by 3 years), medium term (by 5 years) and long term (10-20 years).

1. Reducing electricity generation cost
2. Reaching strategic electricity generation mix at least economic cost
3. Connecting with BIMSTEC electricity super grid
4. Preparing Sri Lanka for a Net Zero emission energy future
5. Entering international energy trading
6. Harnessing indigenous oil & gas reserves and green hydrogen
7. Decreasing oil-based transportation
8. Grooming national companies in international energy markets
9. Promoting national manufacturing industries in energy sector
10. Transforming into a smart energy sector



MARITIME

Introduction

Sri Lanka, strategically located at the crossroads of major sea routes connecting East and West, plays a pivotal role in global trade. These routes witness a constant flow of ships carrying hundreds of millions of tons of cargo. Colombo, the primary port, is well-positioned to handle this traffic, while Hambantota, a deep-water port in the south, offers underutilized capacity. By investing in infrastructure and offering competitive services, Sri Lanka has the potential to attract a greater share of maritime traffic, enhancing Colombo and Hambantota as vital global shipping hubs. The maritime sector, with key ports including Colombo, Galle, Hambantota, and Trincomalee, is crucial for trade and economic growth, managing a substantial portion of the country's trade volume.

Sri Lanka's seafarers, widely recognized in the industry for their exceptional skill and efficiency, are the backbone of our maritime sector. There is substantial potential to increase their numbers, increasing foreign exchange earnings and creating lucrative job opportunities for our youth. To propel Sri Lanka to the forefront of the global maritime sector. This framework incorporates input from various stakeholders, including ports, shipping companies, and industry experts, ensuring a balanced and inclusive approach to industry growth and development.

Vision

Be a global maritime leader: by leveraging strategic position in the Indian Ocean, enhancing logistics efficiency, and building a world-class maritime workforce.

Framework

1. Ships Manning

Objective: Increase the number of skilled and quality seafarers to 50,000 by 2030.

Strategies:

- Facilitate and improve preliminary and professional maritime education.
- Facilitate and improve proficiency in career development and professional certifications.
 - Establish a structured process for reviewing and revising syllabi to meet the actual requirement of IMO.
 - Appoint a third-party evaluation committee for the ministerial examination division to adhere to QMS standards.

- Foster the industrial training facilities.
- Explore the international professional opportunities in new markets.
- Upheld the seafarer's code of conduct and welfare.

2. Port Infrastructure and Other Services

Objective: Develop world-class port infrastructure and service center.

Strategies:

- Improve logistics in port expansion, handling, databases, clearance procedures, inland transportation, national fleets, infrastructure, yards and operations.
- Promote and establish ships service and repairs in operations, agency representations, market chains, laboratory services, efficient bunkering, disposals and ship chandelling.
- Integration with tourism sector.

3. Ships Registration

Objective: Target of 5% of the international market by 2029.

Strategies:

- Gap analysis, adopt new regulations and market models.

4. Maritime Legislation, Environmental Protection, and Monitoring

Objective: Ensure effective monitoring and environmental protection in the maritime sector.

Strategies:

- Establish an effective and vigilant Port State Control (PSC) inspection system.
- Implement a target-based transparent PSC service with live streaming.
- Recruit adequate officers for enforcement.
- Enforce MARPOL requirements and other environmental protection regulations.
- Enforce an authority on maritime safety in Sri Lanka integrating with Merchant Shipping Secretariat, Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA), Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA), Ceylon Shipping Corporation (CSC), Coast Guard, Sri Lanka Navy, Sri Lanka Customs, Immigration and Port Health Authority.

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COMMUNICATION

Core Values

CONNECTIVITY FOR ALL

Every Sri Lankan should have the ability to access information with reachability and affordability.

ACCOUNTABILITY

National & personal data security and data privacy.

SUSTAINABILITY

Greener infrastructure with higher energy efficiency and achieving the United Nation Sustainable Development Goals such as **SDG 9** (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and also **SDG17** (Partnership for the Goals) as a means of implementation, **SDG 4** (Quality Education) and **SDG 5** (Gender Equality) as well as others where ICT sector, enabled by ITU activities, and it will have the biggest impacts, such as SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), **SDG 10** (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), **SDG 1** (No Poverty), **SDG 3** (Good-Health and Well-Being). ITU is clearly highlighted based on its relevance.

READY FOR THE FUTURE

Plans to be made while considering future trends and demands, and ready to adopt and acquire such plans and arrangements for the benefits of all Sri Lankans.

Objective

The objective of National Policy Framework (NPF) in the wired communication industry, mobile communication industry, broadcasting industry, and cinema and entertainment industry encompasses:

1. Wired Communication Industry

To outline regulations and incentives fostering the development of robust wired communication infrastructure, promoting universal access, competition, deploying the local infrastructure including fixed line connection such as FTTX, public access point and innovation while ensuring the connection for all, cybersecurity and data privacy.

2. Mobile Communication Industry

To delineate policies promoting the expansion of mobile networks, spectrum management, affordability, and quality of service, encouraging investment, technological advancement, and equitable access for all segments of society.

3. Broadcasting Industry

To digitalize the Network infrastructure and establish the broadcast regulatory authority as an institution accountable to the general public and parliament, and established the guidelines for network and infrastructure sharing content regulation, licensing, spectrum allocation, and promoting diversity, local content creation such as infotainment & Edutainment, and audience protection while embracing digital convergence and addressing challenges posed by online platforms.

4. Cinema and Entertainment Industry

To support the growth and sustainability of the cinema and entertainment sector through promoting the location services, facilitation and providing technological services with modern technology for foreign film production companies, and incentives, content promotion, infrastructure development, and intellectual property rights protection, fostering creativity, cultural diversity, and economic growth, and to produce skilled engineering professionals in the respective subjects by carrying out teaching activities related to new subject streams.

5.Regulation and defining the strategies

TRCSL must be reformed and restructured by establishing three regulatory bodies under the commission to be changed as Communication Regulatory Commission - SL (CRC-SL) and it shall be accountable for the general public and parliament.

1. Telecommunication regulatory authority for Telco industry
2. Broadcast regulatory authority for Broadcast industry
3. Cinema, Entertainment and New Media regulatory authority for Entertainment industry

6.Engineering Education

Engineering education should be reformed and restructured for producing industry related practitioners.

By elucidating the objectives within each industry, the NPF aims to create a conducive regulatory environment that fosters innovation, investment, competition, and societal welfare while addressing sector-specific challenges and opportunities.

Policy Directions, Strategies and Actions

Wired Communication Industry

- Number Portability to do with mobile sector
- Local loop unbundling (LLU) and infrastructure shearing
- Outside Plant Engineering should be authorized and operate under the urban council (including CEB and Water Board)
- Volume based tariffs should be changed to bandwidth-based tariffs.
- Centralized backbone network and other infrastructure of the network ownership, management and regulation done by the CRC-SL (utilities the CEB fiber path for the infrastructure development).
- Data center and cloud solution
 - a. Centralized the API and should improve the capacity according to the requirements. (Centralized Database Cloud solution, CIVIC registration, for E- Government system).
- Deploying the public access point to reaching the network easily to the general public.
- HLR should be embedded with CIVIC registration. (Also to do with the mobile sector).

Mobile Communication Industry

1. PRIORITIZE FOR NEW TECHNOLOGY

Give priority for new technology such as 5G and LTE+ with higher spectrum efficiency.

Shut down old technologies while keeping the basic emergency coverage. Ex: Keep 2G for emergency calls and shut down 3G/CDMA.

2. REDUCE GUARD-BANDS

By allocating continues spectrum to each service provider will yield less guard-bands between operators.

3. FREQUENCY SPECTRUM REARRANGEMENT

- 700 MHz Band Currently used with the analog TV broadcast service; with the digitalization of TV broadcast this band should be allocated to LTE/5G communication.
- 450 MHz Band Currently used with obsolete CDMA technology, the lower frequency bandwidth with higher coverage penetration should be allocated for LTE communication.
- 900MHz, 1800MHz and 2100MHz Bands Rearrange spectrum bands so that they have contiguous spectrum to improve spectrum efficiency.
- 5G Deployment, The current trend of the country is relying more on mobile wireless as fixed connections are less affordable, which yields higher utilization of the mobile spectrum.

4. PROMOTE PUBLIC WI-FI

Promoting usage of public Wi-Fi along with the mobile network to reduce utilization of the precious mobile spectrum and stronger public WiFi network in public areas such as schools, libraries, parks, government offices with affordable access to internet and free access to essential services. Special packages need to be introduced for tourists and the tourism industry.

5. PROMOTE WIRED CONNECTIONS

The current trend of the country is relying more on mobile wireless as fixed connections are less affordable, which yields higher utilization of the mobile spectrum.

- Band of 20 MHz currently allocated for CDMA connections which has already been replaced with VoLTE. Lower frequency band yields higher penetration for rural areas.

Common Action for the Telco Industry

- Use telecom levy budget to deploy infrastructure for rural and public areas with limited coverage which is the true purpose.
- Government imposed targets for telecom operators to provide reachability for all the citizens of the country.
- Access to services identified as essential, such as emergencies, government services, health and education network should be free of charge.
- Provide equal education opportunities around the country with free access to education materials.
- Promote IoT applications such as NB-IoT for the development of the IoT networks. (Ex: Smart metering)
- Regulatory bodies (CRC-SL AND TRA) should produce a guideline for the operators to promote sharing passive/active infrastructure with standardized tariff.
- Deploy infrastructure within the government institutes in rural areas and public areas for the operators to lease.

Broadcasting Industry

- The network infrastructure should be converted into digital domain and other digital based services deploy quickly, such as early warning system, hybrid cast, VOD and other value-added services and other streaming services.
- The digitalization process should adapt to the latest technological advancement of the system conversion.
- Regulatory body should be established under the CRC-SL.
- introduced the minimum broadcast technical standard for the production workflow.
- Government owned radio and TV companies should be integrated and work as a single body.
- and its institutional structure should be changed as all engineering facilities should combine and act as a subsidiary company, and channels work as the other subsidiary companies.
- In Rupavahini (CH-01) and Nethra (CH-02) operate as Public Services Broadcast (PSB) Domain. Channel EYE(CH-03) operates as a commercial domain. All ITN channels operate as a commercial domain, and SLBC CH-01 operate as Public Services Broadcast (PSB) Domain and others operate as commercial domain.

- The annual media budget of the state allows the above-mentioned channels to operate under the Public Services Broadcast (PSB) Domain.
- Government ownership is converted as public ownership and developed as separate subsidiaries under the one roof to ensure their own identities.
- Improve the technical infrastructure, production to recipient process for broadcast the infotainment and edutainment content and deploy the related services.
- Identify terrestrial TV as the efficient medium for educational services and improve the technical infrastructure for mitigating it.
- Hiring the broadcast equipment, facilitation and technical manpower for the international outside broadcast coverages and becoming a key team player of the international outside broadcast coverages industry, SLRC Engineering has a high potential for it.

Cinema And Entertainment Industry

- Digital cinema projection standard should be implemented as 2K.
- Government should regulate the film production and distribution process.
- Identifying the geo-natural condition of Sri Lanka has a high impact on providing the location and technological facilitation for the foreign film production.
- Encourage the private sector to invest in building modern technological studios and postproduction laboratories and importing new equipment for the location and facilitation services industry and provide tax concessions and incentives for them.
- Establish the new regulation and working process for streaming line the Location and facilitation services for the foreign films.
- Established the regulatory body under the CRC-SL for technological and other regulatory processes in cinema entertainment and new media sector.
- Encourage the private sector to invest in entertainment and new media such as live events, streaming services OTT, And VOD.
- encourage the private sector to invest in the event markets and collaborate with the tourism industry.

