



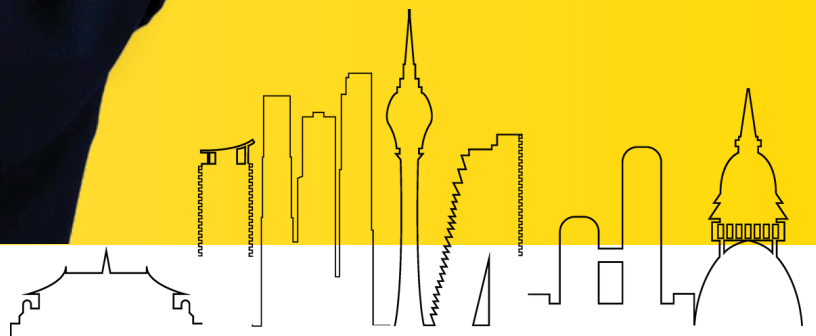
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ஐக்கிய மக்கள் சக்தி
Samagi Jana Balawegaya

Dr. Ruvaiz Haniffa

Colombo Mayorial Candidate

2.0 Action Plan
for a Happier Colombo

drruvaizhaniffa.lk





Get to Know Your Mayor

Dr. Ruvaiz Haniffa

A Life of Service. A Vision for Colombo.

I was born in Colombo. Raised by this city. Educated, trained, and tested right here in Sri Lanka. I'm a family practitioner who has spent his entire career caring for communities — in clinics, classrooms, hospitals, and homes. I've lived, served, and stood by this country all my life — and now, I'm stepping forward to serve the city that made me who I am.

My grandfather, the late M. H. Mohamed, once held this very office before becoming the Speaker of Parliament. But to me, his legacy wasn't just political — it was deeply personal. He showed me that public service is not about power. It's about purpose. It's about showing up, every single day, for the people who place their trust in you.

That belief has guided me throughout my life. I served at the war front in Jaffna during the height of the conflict — as a medical officer standing with our troops and treating the wounded. I've worked in military hospitals, public hospitals, and at the community level. I've trained hundreds of doctors, led national health reform efforts, served as President of the Sri Lanka Medical Association, and helped develop policy to strengthen primary care, palliative care, and elderly health services across the country.

Through it all, I never left our motherland. I am a 100% product of Sri Lanka — shaped by its people, its struggles, and its resilience.

I studied at D. S. Senanayake College — a place that welcomed all faiths, where I learned not just science and history, but how to live among people of every background. That experience shaped how I see the world — with compassion, fairness, and a deep belief in community.

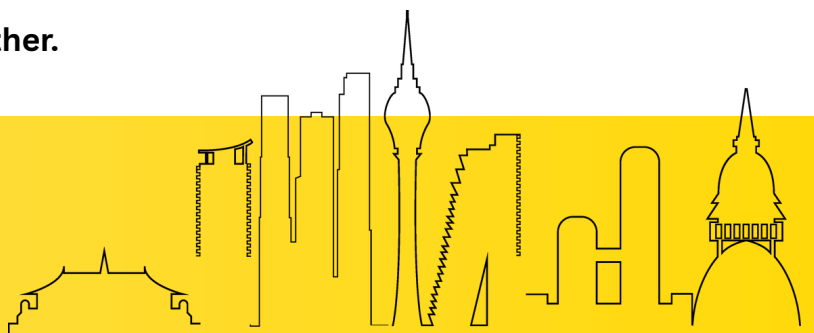
Now, I believe it's time to bring that same discipline, experience, and focus into City Hall. Because Colombo is hurting. People feel unheard. Unseen. Left behind.

But we can fix this — not with slogans or noise, but with real solutions, clean governance, and community at the centre of every decision.

This isn't just a campaign. It's a calling. It's about honouring where I come from — and building a Colombo we can all be proud of.

Let's create A Happier Colombo. Together.

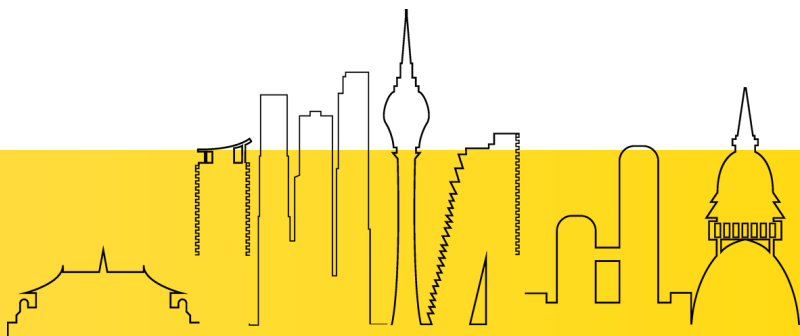
**FOR A HAPPIER
COLOMBO**





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Learn Early, Learn Fair

Every child deserves a strong start, no matter where they live.

Too many children in Colombo are left behind simply because of where they live. Access to early education and after-school support is limited in low-income areas, creating long-term disadvantages. Learn Early, Learn Fair is a city-wide initiative to ensure every child — regardless of background — has access to quality early learning, community-based support, and the tools to succeed. This is about giving every child a fair start and building a stronger Colombo from the ground up.

What We Have Now

- A few government preschools in main city areas, often full or far from low-income settlements
- No structured learning support for children in flats, underserved wards, or informal settlements
- Limited NGO presence offering support — not consistent or citywide
- No formal after-school programs for children who are falling behind

What We Will Improve

- Open up community halls and ward offices after school for free learning and homework help
- Partner with schools to identify struggling students and provide support
- Train local volunteers and youth as tutors and learning assistants

What New Things We Will Introduce

1. Mobile Preschools: Preschool on Wheels

- Bring early learning directly to underserved communities through safe, playful, and accessible mobile classrooms.
- Safe, engaging learning spaces for children under 5

2. Community Learning Corners

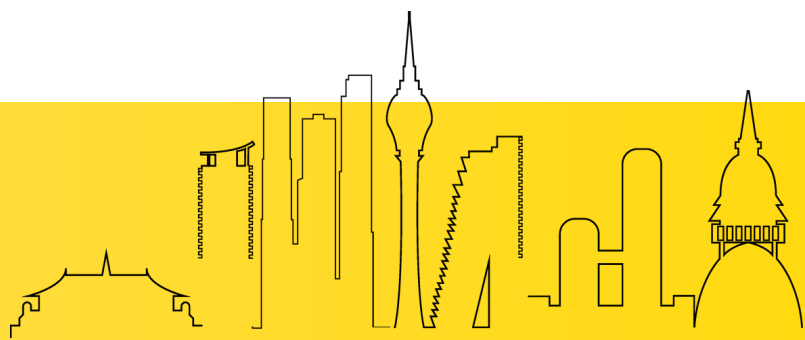
- After-school help zones set up in flats, temples, mosques, and community halls
- Offer reading, storytelling, basic tutoring, and creative activities

3. City Kids Pass

- A reward-based learning attendance card
- Points redeemable for books, field trips, and creative kits

4. Childcare Worker Training

- Provide short-term training for women in each community
- Create jobs in early childhood care and tutoring while supporting children in their own neighbourhoods





Clear Streets, Clean Systems

A Comprehensive Policy for Waste Management Reform in Colombo.

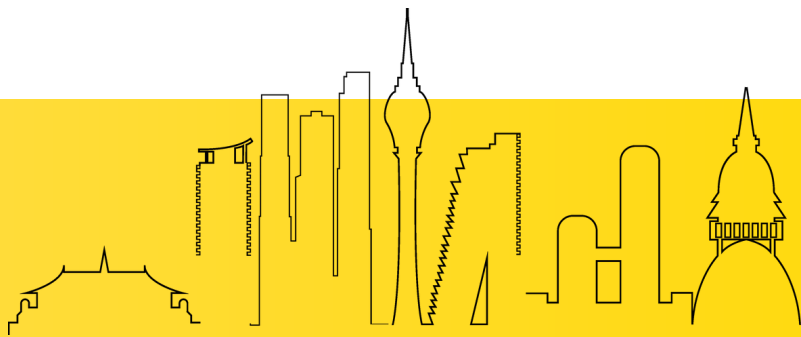
Colombo's waste crisis is a daily frustration for its residents – from overflowing bins and illegal dumping to delayed collection and lack of public accountability. Clear Streets, Clean Systems is a comprehensive plan to modernise the city's waste management using real-time tracking, rapid-response cleanup, and community-driven cleanliness. This initiative ensures that public health, environmental safety, and civic pride begin with a cleaner city.

Main Stakeholders:

- Colombo Municipal Council (CMC) – Main body responsible for garbage collection and waste management within city limits.
- Central Environmental Authority (CEA) – Regulates environmental standards and compliance.
- Private contractors – Hired by CMC to assist with collection and transport.

Existing Infrastructure:

- Garbage trucks – Used for daily collection but not always tracked or optimized.
- Transfer station in Wellawatte – Main city point for consolidating garbage before transport.
- Bins in public areas – Scattered across the city but poorly maintained in many zones.
- Limited composting and recycling facilities – Some small-scale centres in place but underutilised.
- Drainage and cleaning teams – Operate separately from waste teams, with limited coordination.



What We Have Now

- Garbage collection exists but misses many low-income or narrow areas.
- Public bins are in place but often overflow or break.
- There is no real-time tracking system for collection.
- No consistent monitoring of workers and private contractors.
- Most garbage is not separated, making recycling and composting difficult.
- Public awareness of proper waste disposal is low.

What We Will Improve

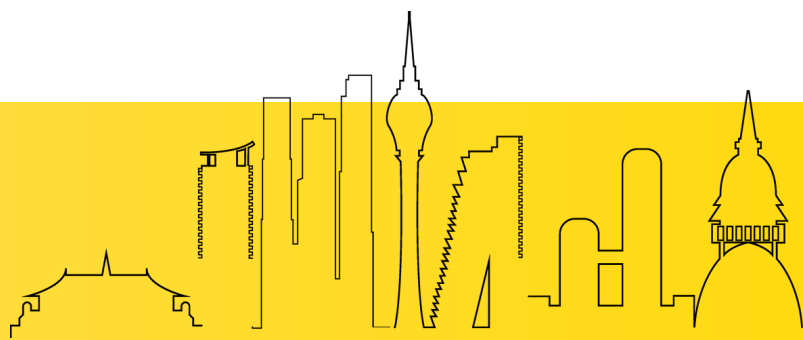
- Use GPS to track garbage trucks and fix collection delays.
- Check and repair public bins more regularly.
- Introduce “Clean Zones” throughout the CMC area with cameras and enforcement to stop illegal dumping.
- Launch “Colombo Clean Starts with Me” campaign to educate communities.
- Set up an inspection team under the Mayor’s Office to monitor waste work monthly.
- Build 5 recycling hubs through partnerships.
- Provide all waste workers with safety gear, training, and regular health checks.

What New Things We Will Introduce

- A public app showing garbage pickup schedules, missed collections, and cleanups.
- Smart bins with sensors that alert teams when full.
- A reporting system for blocked drains with photo uploads by citizens.
- Business Waste Licenses to regulate large producers like hotels and markets.
- Public scorecards showing area-wise performance and cleanliness ratings.
- Use of artificial intelligence to predict problem areas and speed up response.

Making the System Transparent & Accountable

- Monthly updates shared openly with the public.
- Live dashboards to track garbage collections and issue resolutions.
- Performance-based rewards for the cleanest zones and teams.
- Regular community meetings to hear feedback and share progress.



Access for Every Step

A Policy for Inclusion, Mobility, and Dignity in Colombo

A truly modern city must work for everyone – including seniors and people with disabilities. Access for Every Step is an inclusion-first initiative that audits public spaces, builds accessible infrastructure, trains support staff, and introduces a care pass for those most in need. The goal is simple: no one in Colombo should be left out of their own city.

What We Have Now

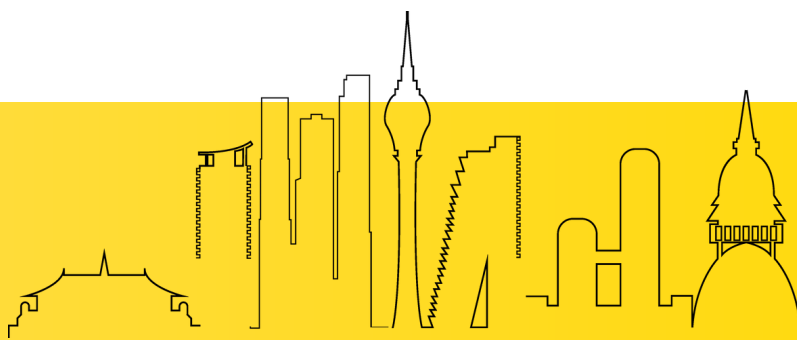
- Very few public spaces or buildings are wheelchair accessible.
- Some private buildings have ramps, but most public toilets, markets, and parks do not.
- No city-wide support system for caregivers, disabled residents, or seniors.
- No communication in accessible formats (large print, audio, etc.).

What We Will Improve

- Start an Accessibility Audit to identify buildings, toilets, sidewalks, and public areas that are not inclusive.
- Prioritise upgrades in high-use areas: ward offices, parks, markets, and bus stops.
- Offer basic disability-awareness training for public staff.
- Support for Families and Caregivers of People with Dementia
 - Launch a Safe Return ID Program to help identify and assist individuals who may wander or get lost, and establish community-based day support groups in selected wards – giving caregivers a safe, supervised space to leave loved ones during work hours.

What New Things We Will Introduce

1. City Accessibility Fund
 - Allocate budget for ramps, handrails, accessible toilets, and signage – starting in high-density wards.
2. Colombo Care Pass
 - A free city pass for seniors and people with disabilities:
 - Priority van access, clinic booking, access to special services
 - Registration of Caregivers
3. Inclusive Communication Tools
 - Important city notices shared in print, audio format, and simple language.
 - Available in Sinhala, Tamil, and English.





Closer Routes, Stronger Links

A Policy for Safer, Smarter, and More Inclusive Public Transport in Colombo

Disconnected communities, long walks to the main road, and unreliable routes make daily life harder for thousands in Colombo. Closer Routes, Stronger Links is a transport initiative that brings school vans, community buses, and improved stops closer to underserved neighbourhoods. The aim is simple: make public transport safer, more accessible, and more human-centred – especially for students, workers, and seniors.

Main Stakeholders

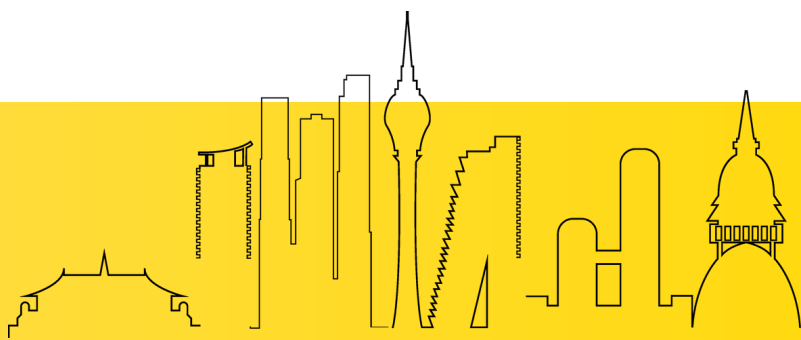
- Sri Lanka Transport Board (SLTB)
- Private bus operators
- National Transport Commission (NTC)
- Road Development Authority (RDA)
- Colombo Municipal Council (CMC)
- Traffic Police & Ministry of Transport
- Commuters, drivers, and small businesses

Current Road Transport Infrastructure

- Overcrowded buses, especially during peak hours.
- Poor maintenance, air conditioning, cleanliness, and reliability.
- Bus halts without proper shelters, lighting, or information.
- No dedicated bus lanes; buses stuck in traffic like private vehicles.
- Weak integration between private and public bus operators.
- High-risk road crossings and unsafe waiting areas.

What We Have Now

- Majority of buses are old and polluting.
- No live tracking or mobile updates on bus schedules.
- Bus stops are poorly maintained or unsafe.
- Heavy congestion during school and office rush hours.
- No priority lanes or time-based traffic flow systems.
- Limited disability access or women-friendly facilities.
- Weak enforcement of bus lane discipline and speed limits.
- Poor connectivity in low-income settlements; children and workers must walk far or pay for tuk-tuks to reach main roads.



What We Will Improve

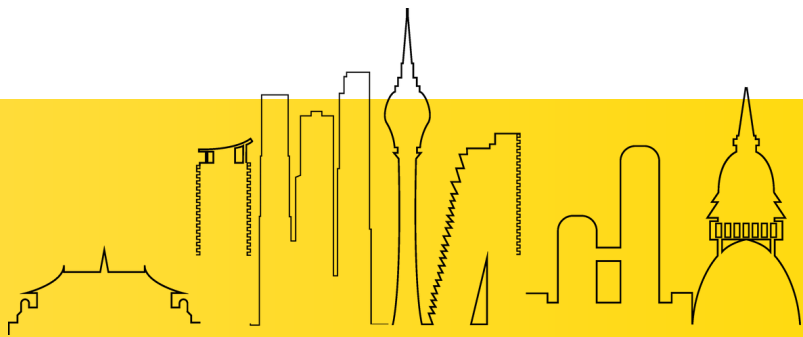
- Modernise bus halts with shelters, lighting, and route info.
- Improve road safety near bus stops with crossings and signals.
- Coordinate SLTB and private bus routes to avoid duplication.
- Train and monitor drivers for better passenger service.
- Create safe waiting spaces for schoolchildren and elderly.
- Enforce bus stop-only pick-ups to reduce road chaos.
- Identify and fix blind spots, potholes, and turning zones.
- Improve access to underserved areas by introducing short-distance feeder buses and vans.

What New Things We Will Introduce

- Launch a Move Colombo App for live bus locations, timings, and route suggestions.
- Pilot dedicated bus lanes in high-traffic corridors with clear markings.
- Introduce electric and low-emission buses through public-private partnerships.
- Install smart bus stop displays showing real-time arrival times.
- Set up Women's Safety Zones at major halts with security features.
- Build bus priority signals at intersections to reduce delays.
- Launch Community Connect Routes – mini buses linking low-income housing areas to main bus corridors, especially during school hours.
- Install smart traffic light systems that adapt to peak hours and bus flow to reduce congestion.
- Set up municipal council-owned e-charging stations across key public transport and parking zones to support the shift to electric mobility.
- Introduce a short-distance, high-frequency train service in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Railways (CGR), offering faster connections between high-density zones within the city.

Making the System Transparent & Accountable

- Share monthly performance stats of routes and driver feedback.
- Enable public reviews of routes and bus services through the app.
- Publish complaints received and resolved by operator and route.
- Involve commuters in feedback sessions every quarter.



Park Right, Move Free

A Policy for Smarter, Fairer, and More Efficient Urban Parking in Colombo

Poorly managed parking clogs streets, wastes time, and fuels frustration. Park Right, Move Free is a smart mobility initiative to streamline city parking using digital payments, dynamic pricing, and better enforcement. It's designed to reduce congestion, reclaim public space, and make city movement smoother for everyone.

Main Stakeholders

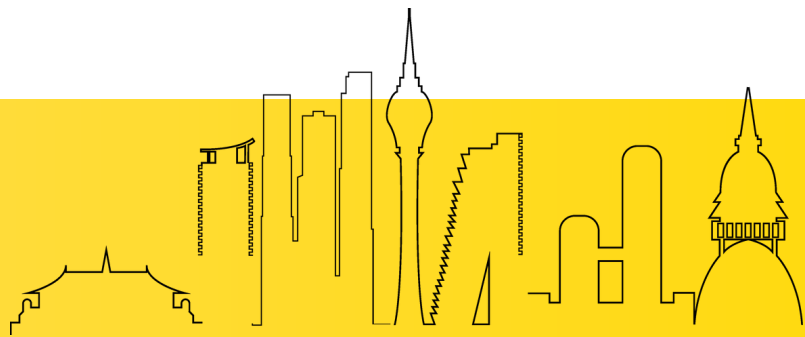
- Colombo Municipal Council (CMC) – Manages most on-street parking and some public lots.
- Private parking operators – Control several high-demand lots, especially near commercial areas.
- Sri Lanka Police & Traffic Division – Enforce parking regulations and handle illegal parking.
- Urban Development Authority (UDA) – Oversees structured parking developments.
- Public transport users and small business owners – Most affected by poor parking design.

Current Parking Infrastructure

- Limited on-street parking with inconsistent enforcement.
- Private lots not always accessible or affordable.
- No city-wide digital system to show available parking in real time.
- Frequent double parking, blocking lanes and causing bottlenecks.
- Lack of designated loading/unloading areas for businesses.

What We Have Now

- Disconnected and outdated parking systems.
- Many spaces go unused due to lack of awareness or poor design.
- No central app or platform to help drivers find parking.
- Informal parking attendants collect money without receipts or accountability.
- No special zones for loading, ride-sharing, or short stops.
- Traffic police overwhelmed with double parking cases.



What We Will Improve

- Create uniform parking rules across the city with better signage and markings.
- Designate loading zones and short-stay bays in commercial areas.
- Regulate and train parking attendants; issue ID badges and make fees cashless.
- Introduce dynamic pricing – cheaper rates in low-demand areas to reduce congestion in hotspots.
- Improve coordination between CMC, UDA, and Police for daily enforcement and planning.

What New Things We Will Introduce

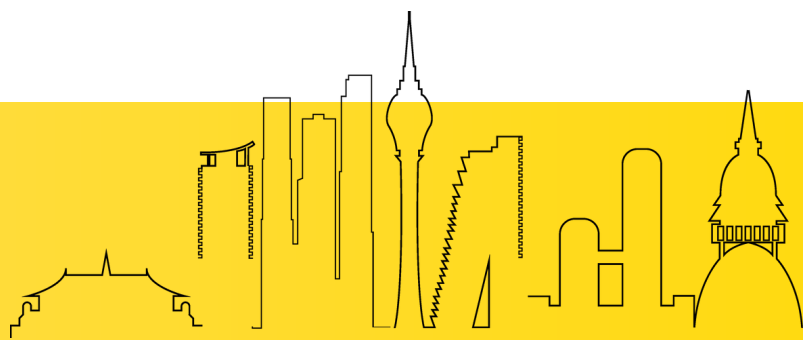
- Launch a Park Smart Colombo App showing real-time availability of parking spots.
- Install smart sensors in major parking zones to detect space usage.
- Build multi-level car parks near transport hubs.
- Set up park-and-ride facilities to reduce city-centre traffic.
- Reintroduce and upgrade automated parking meters in busy zones – enabling card and digital payments, with real-time ticketing and receipt issuance.
- Introduce resident parking permits in crowded residential streets to ensure fair access.
- Promote e-bike and short-distance electric mobility zones, encouraging quick, sustainable movement between neighbourhoods and key destinations.

Tackling Corruption and Mismanagement

- End informal cash collections: Replace paper slips and hand-collected cash with digital payments and receipts.
- License and monitor attendants: Only trained and approved personnel with ID badges will be allowed to manage parking. (Giving preference to existing attendants)
- Public tender process: All outsourced parking zones will be allocated transparently with published terms.
- Central revenue tracking: All parking income will be monitored and publicly reported.
- Citizen reporting: Public can report fake tickets or corrupt practices directly through the app.
- Audit and oversight: Independent audits of parking operations every 6 months.

Making the System Transparent & Accountable

- Share monthly reports on parking usage, revenue, and enforcement.
- Use digital maps to show all legal parking and no-parking zones.
- Publish parking fee structures and fine revenues openly.
- Include citizen feedback features on the app for complaints or suggestions.



Dry Today, Safe Tomorrow

A Policy for Flood Prevention, Drainage Reform, and Climate Resilience in Colombo.

Flooding remains one of Colombo's most disruptive challenges, especially in low-income and flood-prone zones. Dry Today, Safe Tomorrow focuses on mapping blocked drains, lakes, cleaning waterways, introducing smart sensors, and linking waste control with drainage maintenance. It's a practical, prevention-first approach to protect homes, schools, and livelihoods from annual water damage.

Main Stakeholders

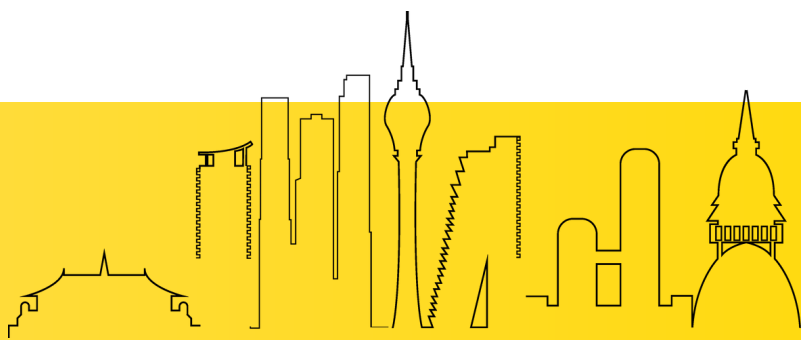
- Colombo Municipal Council (CMC)
- Urban Development Authority (UDA)
- Sri Lanka Land Reclamation and Development Corporation (SLLRDC)
- Disaster Management Centre (DMC)
- Community members and local committees
- Ports Authority
- Sri Lanka Navy

What We Have Now

- Much of Colombo's sewer network is outdated, poorly maintained, and does not cover all neighbourhoods.
- Many pumping stations are outdated and suffer frequent mechanical issues.
- Several canals are choked with garbage, silt, or illegal structures.
- Heavy rains quickly flood streets because drains are not cleared on time.
- Informal settlements lack proper sewage systems and rely on unsafe alternatives.
- Flood response is reactive, not preventive, with limited community communication.

What We Will Improve

- Upgrade and repair existing sewer network, starting with oldest zones.
- Modernise pumping stations with better maintenance schedules and trained staff.
- Launch monthly canal cleaning in partnership with waste management teams.
- Improve coordination between agencies (CMC, NWSDB, UDA, SLLRDC) with a shared action dashboard.
- Link solid waste clean-up with flood prevention teams to keep drains clear.
- Improve access to sewerage systems in underserved settlements using small-scale sanitation hubs.
- Increase inspections of illegal discharge points and unregulated connections.

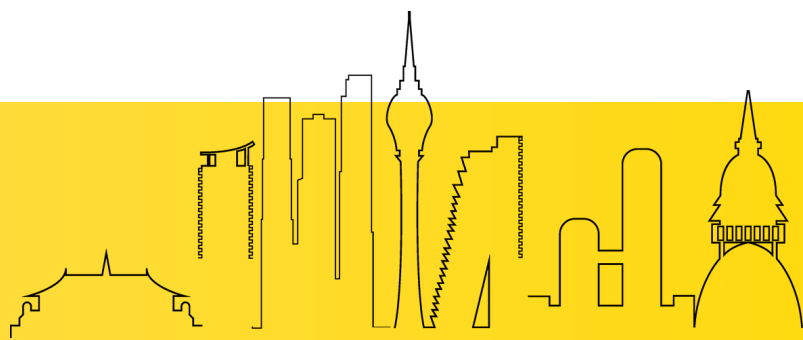


What New Things We Will Introduce

- Install flood sensors and water-level monitors in critical locations for early warnings.
- Create a Flood-Free Colombo Public Map that shows flooded areas in real time and cleared drain zones.
- Introduce a city-wide drain inspection app where citizens can report blocked or broken drains.
- Launch Rapid Response Drain Teams in all high-risk areas with 24/7 clearance capacity.
- Set up community flood wardens in low-lying areas trained in early warning and emergency support.
- Establish mini treatment facilities near informal settlements to manage local sewage safely.

Making the System Transparent & Accountable

- Publish monthly updates on drainage, sewerage, and flood response projects.
- Use smart maps and dashboards to show progress and high-risk zones.
- Introduce ward-level targets for canal cleaning and drain inspections.
- Share inspection reports and progress openly with the public.
- Involve communities in monitoring and maintenance through mobile reporting.



Jobs that Build Futures

A Policy to Empower Colombo's Youth with Skills, Mentorship, and Real Opportunities.

Youth unemployment is one of Colombo's most urgent social issues — but the answer isn't more public jobs, it's more real opportunities. Jobs that Build Futures creates skill-building pipelines, micro-business support, job link desks, and partnerships with local employers to connect young people to income and purpose. This is about giving the youth of Colombo tools they need to succeed — without leaving their city behind.

The Problem

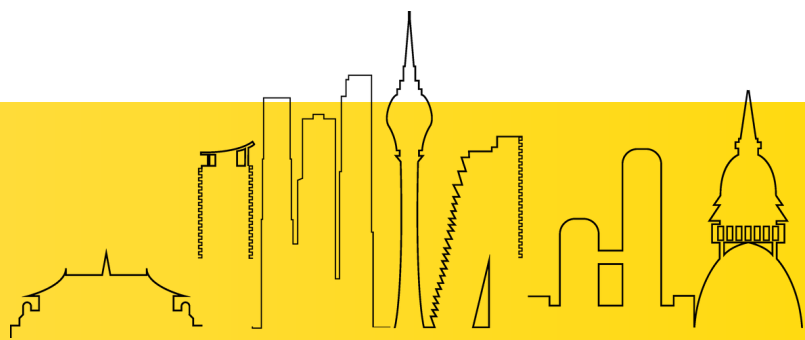
- Many young people in Colombo — especially from lower-income areas — finish school or drop out and find no clear path to work.
- There are few local opportunities, limited exposure to industries, and no support system to connect them with jobs or training.
- This leaves them vulnerable to drugs, crime, and hopelessness.
- Government jobs are limited, and adding more is not financially sustainable.

What We Have Now

- Basic training programs run by the city, often outdated.
- A few private companies offering internships — but not accessible to most.
- NGOs and charities doing uncoordinated youth work.

What We Will Improve

- Partner with businesses (shops, delivery companies, mechanics, salons, tech firms) to offer part-time and apprenticeship opportunities.
- Identify youth in each ward who are actively looking for work.
- Train youth in job-ready skills (delivery apps, customer service, construction safety, caregiving, cleaning services, electronics, masonry, etc).



What New Things We Will Introduce

1. Job Link Desks in Every Ward Office

- A public counter where youth can register for available jobs, skills programs, and mentorship.
- Connected to local business listings and training centres.

2. Colombo Skills Passport

- A simple, physical or digital card that shows completed training and work experience – verified by the city.
- Helps youth build credibility even without formal education.

3. Youth Work Hubs

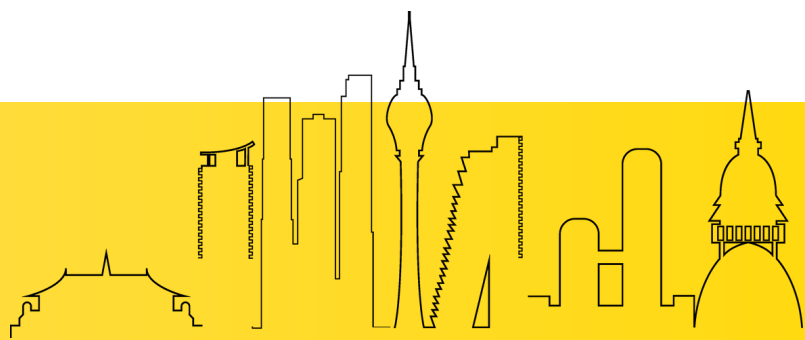
- Partner with community centers or temples/churches/mosques to run local skills training every month.
- Invite small businesses to offer mentorship or “job tryouts.”

4. Youth Talent Days

- Monthly events in each zone where companies come to meet young people, see their skills (tech demos, crafts, small businesses), and offer part-time jobs.

5. Promote Micro-Enterprise

- Offer microgrants or tools (not cash) for youth who want to start a service: barbering, tailoring, bike repair, mobile phone fixing, etc.
- Partner with established shops to mentor and guide them.



Smart City, Clean System

A Policy to Build a Transparent, Digital, and Corruption-Free Colombo.

Corruption, delays, and inefficiency in city services have eroded public trust. Smart City, Clean System puts an end to outdated, paper-based governance by fully digitising permits, payments, tracking, and service delivery. This initiative ensures transparency, accountability, and access — so citizens can see where their money goes, and how their council serves them.

The Vision

Colombo deserves a city council that works as hard as its people. Today, corruption, delays, and hidden dealings stop progress. We're going to fix this by digitising every service, every approval, and every rupee spent. This initiative will make the Colombo Municipal Council a paperless, people-first, fully trackable system.

The Core Goals

- Efficiency – Faster services with no delays or paperwork shuffling
- Transparency – Citizens can track every rupee and decision
- Corruption-Free – No space for middlemen, unofficial payments, or hidden files

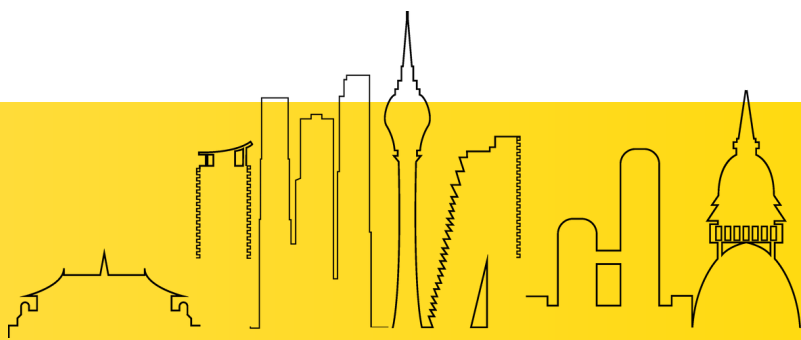
Where Corruption and Delay Happen Now

These are the key areas within the council that are vulnerable to corruption, favouritism, and inefficiency:

1. Permits & Approvals (e.g. building permits, business licenses)
2. Contract Awards and Procurement
3. Public Market Stall Distribution
4. Garbage Collection and Street Maintenance Monitoring
5. Revenue Collection and Fee Payments
6. Citizen Complaints and Service Requests

The Digital Council Solutions

1. Online Permit & Approval System
 - Apply online for building approvals, trade licenses, vending spots, etc.
 - Track applications with reference numbers and view timelines publicly
 - Automatic rejection of delayed files, with SMS/email updates
2. Digital Land & Housing Registry
 - All applications scored on clear, public criteria (income, family size, urgency)
 - Online application and transparent queue
 - No middlemen or private handling of files



3. E-Procurement & Contract Transparency

- All tenders published online with full timelines and documents
- Winning contractor, project cost, and deadline made public
- QR codes at project sites link to cost and status info

4. Fair Vendor and Market Stall System

- Digital lottery for stall allocations
- Yearly renewals based on clear, measurable performance
- Zero tolerance for unofficial payments or favours

5. Real-Time Public Works Tracker

- GPS tracking for garbage trucks, drain teams, and street sweepers
- Live dashboards for residents to monitor service delivery
- WhatsApp reporting for missed collections or bad service

6. Cashless Payments Only

- All fees, fines, stall rent, and license payments to go digital
- No cash handling at service points
- Receipts generated instantly and visible in public collection reports

7. Open Citizen Feedback & Complaint Portal

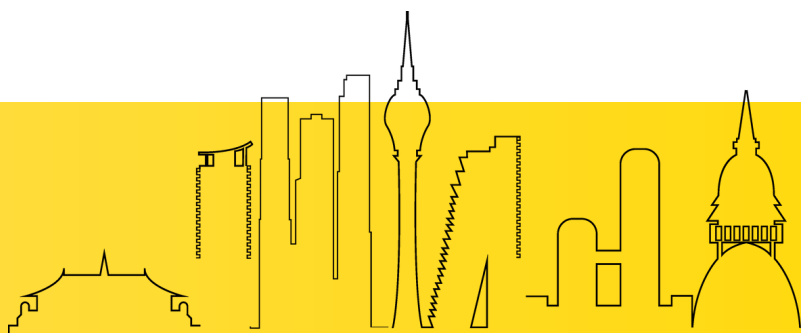
- Online and mobile platform for service requests and complaints
- Trackable complaint ID with updates
- Escalation for unresolved cases
- Monthly performance scoreboard for each ward

8. Public Complaint Management System

- Set up secure complaint drop boxes at every ward office and key municipal buildings
- Residents can write and submit service complaints in Sinhala, Tamil, or English
- Each complaint will be logged, tracked, and responded to with updates available at the ward office
- Unresolved issues will be escalated to higher officials with fixed resolution timelines

What the Public Will See

- A public dashboard on a city website and council screens:
 - Spending by department
 - Complaints received and resolved
 - Live project updates
 - Garbage and maintenance activity maps



Healthy Colombo, Stronger Lives

A Policy to Bring Healthcare Closer to Every Household in Colombo.

Good health is a basic right — not a privilege for the few. Healthy Colombo, Stronger Lives aims to strengthen public clinics, improve access to affordable care, and support community wellness across all wards. With a focus on prevention, dignity, and ward-level services, this initiative brings quality healthcare closer to every household.

The Problem

- Many families in Colombo's low-income areas struggle to access basic healthcare.
- Government hospitals are overcrowded, understaffed, and often far from where people live.
- Long travel times, high transport costs, and missed work hours discourage people from seeking care early — especially mothers, children, and the elderly.
- Private clinics are too expensive, and there is little preventive care or awareness in most neighborhoods.

What We Have Now

- Large government hospitals in central locations (e.g. National Hospital, Lady Ridgeway Hospital).
- Some small MOH offices (Medical Officer of Health) for immunisations and maternal health.
- NGOs offering scattered medical camps and mobile clinics.
- CMC Dispensaries (Western & Traditional)

What We Will Improve

1. More Mobile Clinics in Underserved Areas

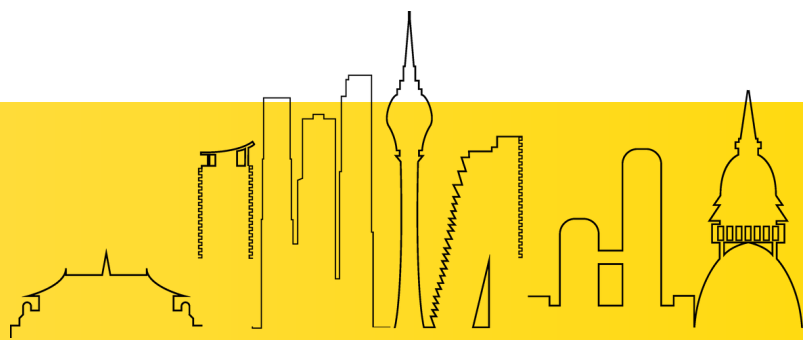
- Partner with medical universities and NGOs to run regular mobile health units — offering checkups, maternal care, diabetes and pressure screenings, and basic medicine.
- Focus on low income settlements.

2. Train Local Health Volunteers

- Select and train women and youth in the community to provide basic health support: first aid, medication reminders, and referrals.
- These volunteers will work under supervision and help bridge the gap between families and clinics.

3. Neighbourhood Health Desks

- Set up simple health counters at ward offices or community centres where people can:
 - Get basic advice
 - Refill long-term medication (blood pressure, diabetes)
 - Book appointments at nearby clinics



What New Things We Will Introduce

1. Colombo Health Card

- A simple ID card (physical or digital) for low-income families to:
 - Track vaccinations and prescriptions
 - Access free services at partner clinics
 - Register for mobile clinic visits and follow-ups

2. Online Health Tracker

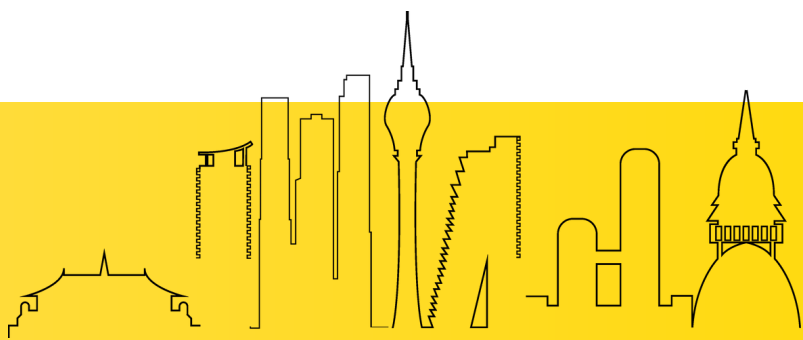
- A city-run health dashboard (also displayed in local offices) showing:
 - Upcoming free clinics
 - Common health issues in each zone
 - Number of patients served

3. Emergency Response Training

- Basic first-aid and CPR training for volunteers, tuk drivers, teachers, and shopkeepers.
- Helps reduce deaths from sudden health events in areas with poor ambulance access.

4. Mother & Child Health Focus

- Free nutrition packs and vitamins for pregnant women and toddlers through clinics and mobile services.
- Early screening for anemia, malnutrition, and respiratory issues.



Her Right to the City

A Policy for Women's Safety, Hygiene, and Dignity in Colombo

Women deserve to move freely, work safely, and feel protected in every corner of Colombo. Her Right to the City is a women's safety and dignity initiative that prioritises lighting, safe toilets, reporting systems, and community hubs for rest and support. It's a commitment to designing a city where every woman — no matter her background — feels safe, respected, and empowered.

The Problem

- Many women in Colombo — especially those living in lower-income areas — face daily threats on streets, buses, and even in their own neighborhoods.
- Public toilets and sanitation are often unsafe or unusable, especially during menstruation or pregnancy.
- There are very few safe spaces or support systems for women facing harassment, violence, or emotional stress.
- Working women in informal sectors and young girls often lack proper protection or resources.

What We Have Now

- Some police women's desks and legal protection laws — but access is limited.
- A few NGOs working on women's rights — but their services are not city-wide.
- Public toilets and washrooms are available, but mostly unsafe, unhygienic, or male-dominated.

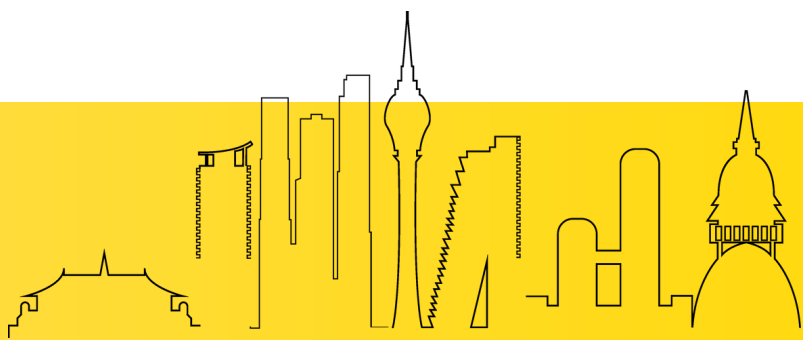
What We Will Improve

1. Hygienic and Safe Public Toilets for Women

- Upgrade public toilets in markets, parks, and transport hubs with:
 - Sanitary disposal bins
 - Locks and lighting
 - Regular cleaning and female attendants

2. Women Safety Helpline and WhatsApp Reporting

- Introduce a 24/7 city-level helpline and WhatsApp number for women to report harassment or unsafe spaces.
- Connect reports to quick-response teams in local wards and the nearest police station.



What New Things We Will Introduce

1. Safer Streets and Transport

- Install more streetlights and CCTV cameras in high-risk areas.
- Ensure visible female presence in city guard and cleaning staff teams.
- Work with transport authorities to ensure buses and bus stops are monitored and harassment is dealt with seriously.
- Reintroduce Smart Poles - Install modern smart poles in high-risk zones, equipped with CCTV cameras and lighting
 - Help deter harassment and improve night-time visibility
 - Feed into a central monitoring system for quick response

2. Free Pad Banks

- Set up “Pad Banks” in public toilets, community centres, and schools
- Stocked regularly and run by trained female volunteers.

3. Dignity Cards

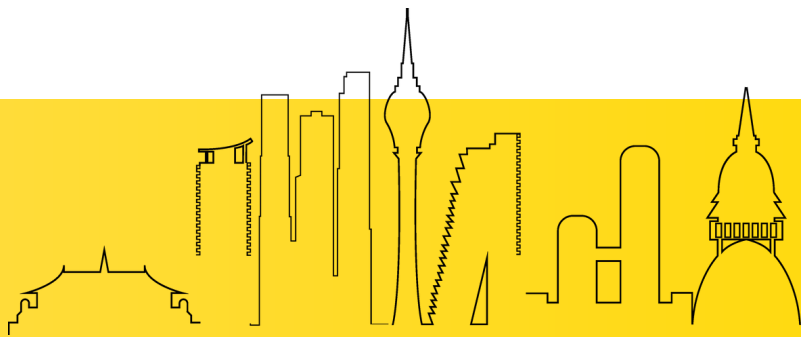
- A special city-issued ID that gives free or discounted access to:
 - Public toilets
 - Mobile clinics
 - Women-focused skill programs
 - Sanitary product packs

4. Workplace Protection Awareness

- Run city-wide workshops for domestic workers, vendors, salon staff, garment workers and their employers on:
 - Workplace rights
 - What counts as abuse or harassment
 - Where to get help

5. Self-Defense and Awareness Sessions

- Monthly free training sessions for girls and women on basic self-defense, identifying danger, and using tech for safety.



Live Loud, Shine Proud

A Policy to Celebrate Culture, Creativity, and Community Life in Colombo.

Colombo has energy, talent, and stories — but lacks the spaces to celebrate them. Live Loud, Shine Proud brings public life back to the city with sports leagues, open-air festivals, youth arts, and street performances. It transforms neglected spaces into vibrant cultural zones and positions Colombo as a city of joy, talent, and identity.

The Problems

- Under utilised public sports grounds or facilities for young people, especially in low-income areas. Existing ones are poorly maintained or restricted.
- Very few entertainment options for families, youth, or visitors — especially outside of malls or expensive venues.
- Colombo is not being showcased well to tourists. There's no central place to find events, cultural activities, or local experiences.
- Our city feels inactive and disconnected — no community spirit, no regular events, and little support for local talent or creativity.

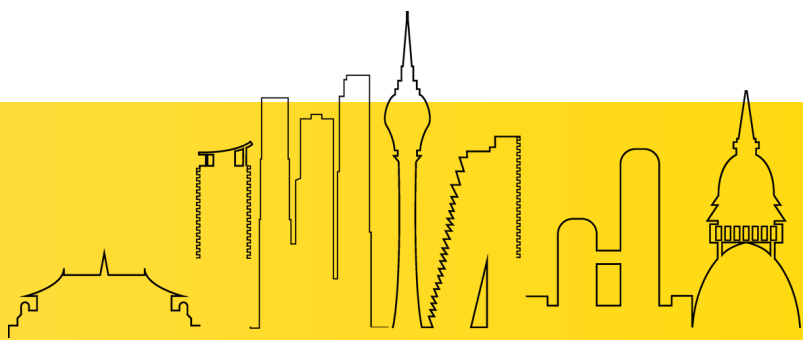
What We Have Now

- Large stadiums and a few public parks — mostly underused by everyday people.
- Occasional events at Galle Face, Viharamahadevi Park, or private venues.
- Popular tourist spots — like Gangaramaya Temple, Independence Square, Pettah — but little storytelling, limited walkability, and few guided experiences.
- Talented youth, artists, and creators — but no public platform or city support.

What We Will Improve

Sports & Youth Engagement

- Open up underused school and government-owned grounds for public use on evenings/weekends.
- Renovate small play spaces
- Launch zonal youth leagues in cricket, football, netball, and volleyball with local coaching and gear support.



Entertainment Access

- Revive city-owned venues and parks for weekly cultural events, free movie nights, live performances.
- Support local event organizers and performers with low-cost permits and technical/logistical support.
- Encourage community-driven entertainment – school bands, street theatre, storytelling sessions.

Tourism Promotion

- Light up and clean Colombo's heritage areas
- Train local residents (especially youth and elders) to become tour guides, storytellers, and hosts for food walks, cultural trails, etc.
- Create local souvenir markets where artists, makers, and small businesses can sell directly to visitors.

What New Things We Will Introduce

City-Wide Weekend Festival Series

- Host rotating "Weekend Colombo" events in different neighbourhoods:
- Music, street food, dancing, art walls, night bazaars.
- Each area gets a turn to shine – building pride and identity.

Micro Playgrounds & Urban Courts

- Convert empty lots, dead public spaces, and rooftops into mini courts for futsal, basketball, netball.
- Target areas where youth hang out with no facilities

Senior Citizen Exercise Zones

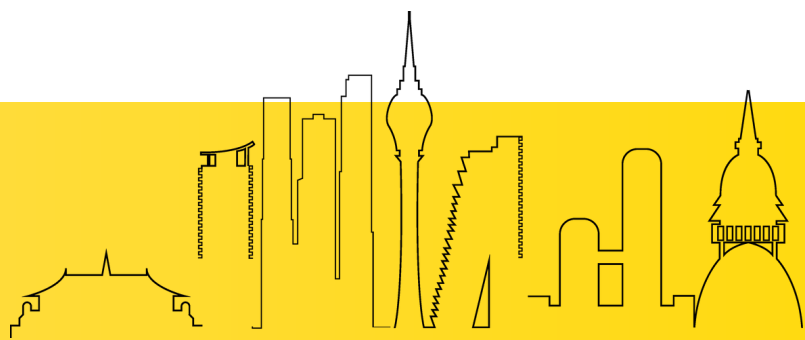
- Create safe, open-air fitness corners in parks and neighbourhoods, specially designed for older residents.
 - Simple equipment, flat surfaces, benches, and shaded areas
 - Promotes health, social connection, and dignity for Colombo's elders.

Experience Colombo Hubs

- Set up small booths in Galle Face, Pettah, and Fort to:
- Promote local events
- Help tourists book walking tours and tuk-tuk routes
- Distribute maps, storybooks, and recommendations from locals

Crow Island Beach Park Promotions

- Vibrant Youth Events
 - Live music, DJ nights, food & art festivals, outdoor movie screenings, night markets, and beach bazaars.
- Digital Buzz
 - Social media challenges, TikTok collabs, and Instagrammable murals, neon signs, and scenic photo spots.
- Wellness & Eco Vibes
 - Sunrise yoga, fitness sessions, wellness retreats, beach cleanups, and volunteer programs.
- Lifestyle & Vibe
 - Themed cafés and eye-catching signage and branding throughout.



Safe Roofs, Strong Roots

A Policy for Secure, Livable, and Dignified Housing in Colombo

Far too many families in Colombo live in unsafe flats or vulnerable settlements, with limited access to clean water, sanitation, or structural stability. Safe Roofs, Strong Roots addresses this by upgrading existing housing, ensuring fair relocation for high-risk areas, and launching a digital registry for transparent access. It's a plan to restore dignity and security to every home in the city.

Main Stakeholders

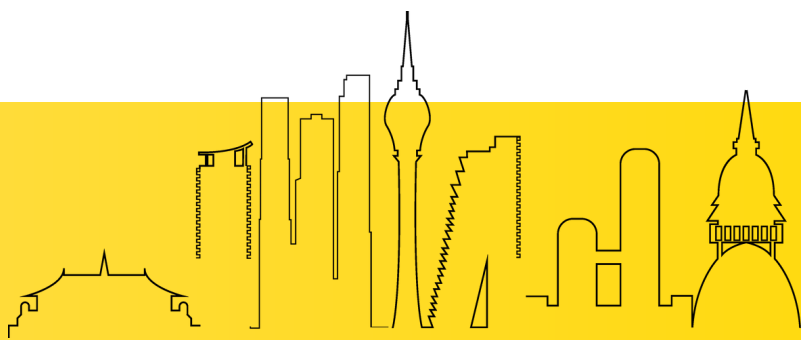
- Urban Development Authority
- Colombo Municipal Council
- National Housing Development Authority
- Private developers and contractors
- Condominium Management Authority

Current Housing Conditions

- A significant portion of Colombo's population lives in underserved settlements, many without access to basic sanitation or secure housing.
- Some live in areas marked for development or subject to flood.
- Many lack legal ownership, making them vulnerable to eviction.
- Public housing flats are overcrowded and poorly maintained.
- New housing schemes often built far from schools, jobs, and services.

What We Have Now

- Families in informal settlements live in fear of eviction or flooding.
- Poor access to water, sanitation, and waste collection.
- Broken-down public housing blocks with no maintenance budget.
- Long waiting lists for new housing allocations.
- Gaps in coordination between agencies managing housing, land, and utilities.
- No city-wide policy on relocation or in-place housing upgrades.



What We Will Improve

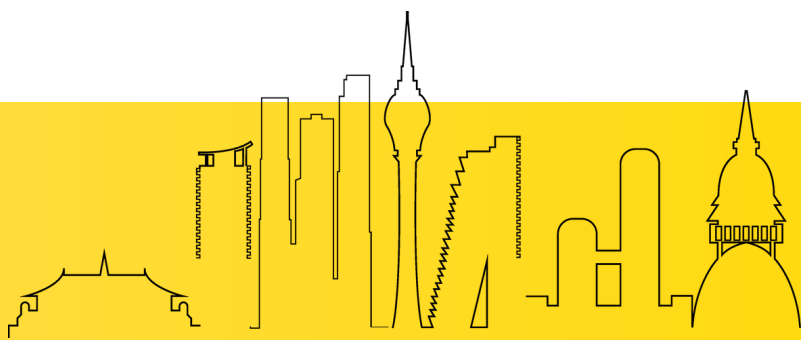
- Create a public registry of informal households and housing conditions.
- Begin phased renovations of damaged public housing flats.
- Improve drainage, waste collection, and water access in existing settlements.
- Provide land tenure or occupancy rights to long-time residents.
- Establish clear guidelines for relocation that protect livelihoods and access to schools.
- Involve community members and residents in planning and decisions about their housing.

What We Will Build

- Launch Homes for Dignity Zones in each ward – in-place upgrades with proper toilets, roofing, and safety.
- Partner with the private sector for mixed-income housing with protected units for low-income families.
- Establish Housing Help Desks in every municipal ward to assist with housing complaints and applications.
- Introduce Child-Safe Neighborhood Designs with proper lighting, play areas, and safe walkways.
- Construct Municipal Funeral Parlours and Reception Halls in key neighbourhoods to offer dignified, affordable spaces for families — a currently neglected need in low-income areas.

Making the System Transparent & Accountable

- Public database of all government housing projects and maintenance status.
- Monthly updates on housing upgrades, new builds, and pending issues.
- Citizen access to housing plans and budgets.
- Annual Housing Report published by the Mayor's Office.



Bright City, Proud City

A Policy for Practical Beautification and Greener Public Spaces in Colombo

Colombo deserves to look as vibrant as the people who call it home. Bright City, Proud City is a practical beautification plan focused on cleaning up neglected spaces, greening central areas, and maintaining a consistent standard across all city zones. This isn't about luxury – it's about dignity, cleanliness, and restoring civic pride one street, one wall, one space at a time.

What We Have Now:

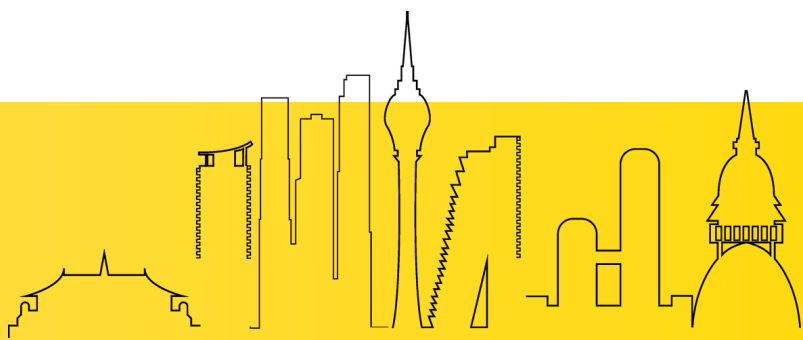
- Some beautification projects (e.g. F.R. Senanayake Mawatha, Viharamahadevi Park), mostly limited to central Colombo.
- Many public areas – roundabouts, canal edges, empty sidewalks – remain bare, poorly maintained, or filled with trash.
- Lack of coordination between departments handling cleaning, maintenance, and visual upgrades.
- Very few community-based beautification programs or citizen involvement initiatives.
- No regular upkeep plan for beautified spaces – they often fall into disrepair.

What We Will Improve:

- Identify and prioritise 25 key public eyesores (walls, corners, roundabouts, bus stops) and clean/green them over 12 months.
- Repaint public walls and curbs regularly using a ward-level maintenance calendar.
- Fix broken sidewalks, chipped paint, overgrown shrubs, and broken benches – especially in high-traffic zones.
- Coordinate cleaning teams and landscape workers so spaces stay usable and attractive.
- Involve ward offices and community groups in maintaining small spaces near homes, markets, and flats.

What We Will Introduce:

- Mini Beautification Budgets
 - Each ward gets a small annual fund to improve visible public spaces with community input.
- Neighbourhood Wall Projects
 - Damaged public walls will be repainted or tiled with clean, creative designs by youth and local artists.
- Green Corridors & Corner Gardens
 - Turn unused corners and dividers into low-maintenance green areas with drought-friendly plants.



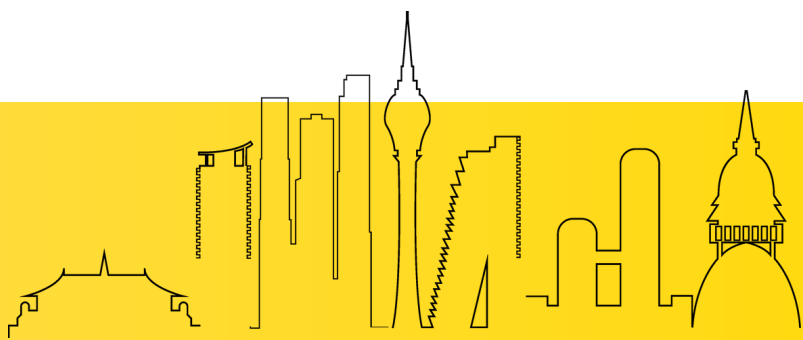
- Public Bench & Shade Program
 - Install basic benches and shade shelters in high-footfall areas like bus stops and parks.
- Seasonal Clean-Up Drives
 - Organize two major citywide clean-up and beautification days each year with full public participation.
- Signboard & Pole Beautification
 - Standardize and clean council signs, repaint lamp posts, and remove outdated posters.

Making the System Transparent & Accountable:

- All beautification budgets and projects will be listed online by ward, with before/after photos.
- Each ward will be required to submit a quarterly update on status of beautified sites.
- Citizens can upload photos of neglected spots via a mobile portal for quick response.
- Monthly “Ward of the Month” recognition based on upkeep and community involvement.

Immediate Focus Areas:

- Market Zones: Clear trash, repaint walls, install benches.
- Canal Edges: Clean paths, install low-maintenance greenery.
- Busy Junctions: Roundabout planting, signage cleanup.
- Public Toilet Exteriors and Clinic Entrances: Repaint, tile, or add greenery for dignity and hygiene.



Empowering Colombo's Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises

A Collaborative Strategy for Sustainable Growth

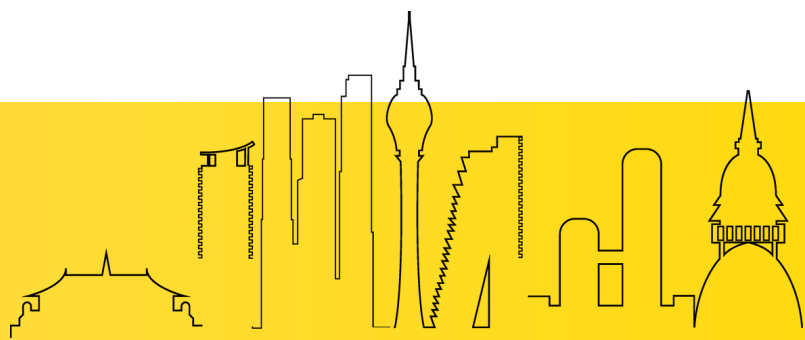
Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are a vital part of Colombo's economy, contributing to employment, innovation, and community development. Given the council's budget constraints, the Colombo MSME Empowerment Strategy focuses on creating an enabling environment where the private sector can lead initiatives, with the council acting as a facilitator by setting up regulations, providing support, and ensuring collaboration. The goal is to create a sustainable ecosystem for MSMEs to thrive and remain competitive in a rapidly evolving economy.

What We Have Now:

- Over 30,000 MSMEs in Colombo, with limited access to financing and modern technology.
- High operational costs due to inefficient infrastructure and regulatory hurdles.
- A lack of cohesive support structures across various sectors, including manufacturing, retail, and services.
- Limited access to training programs and professional development for MSME owners and staff.
- Lack of widespread collaboration between MSMEs and larger businesses or private sector organizations.

What We Will Improve:

- Facilitate the creation of MSME hubs in partnership with the private sector, providing low-cost office spaces and shared resources.
- Support access to financing through public-private partnerships with banks and microfinance institutions.
- Streamline regulatory processes for MSMEs, ensuring faster approvals and reducing bureaucratic delays.
- Encourage private sector-led initiatives to provide infrastructure support, such as reliable power supply and waste management services for business districts.
- Enable MSME owners to access digital tools and training through collaborations with tech firms, digital agencies, and local universities.

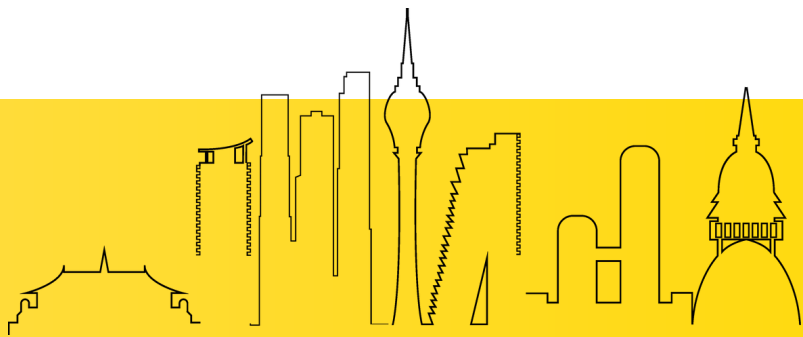


What We Will Introduce:

- We will create affordable shared workspaces across Colombo through public-private partnerships, providing MSMEs with business support services and networking opportunities.
- We will partner with tech companies to help MSMEs adopt digital tools like e-commerce and accounting platforms, supported by council-led incentives.
- We will collaborate with universities and training providers to offer affordable courses in key business areas, with the council coordinating efforts and providing infrastructure.

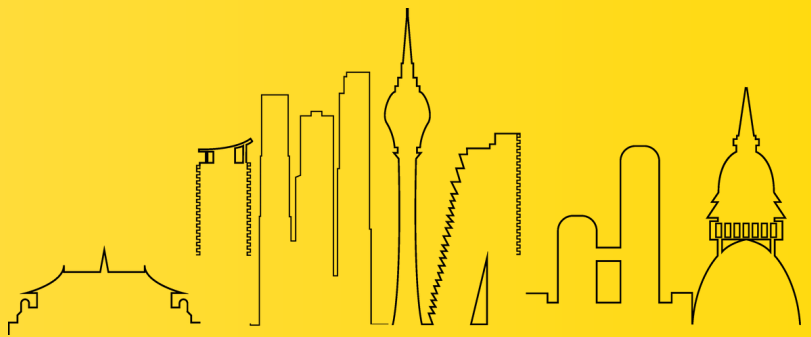
Making the System Transparent & Accountable:

- We will launch an online MSME Performance Portal where businesses can access information on programs, funding options, and success stories, with contributions from private sector partners.
- We will establish an MSME Advisory Council made up of MSME owners, private sector representatives, and government officials to guide policy and ensure sector needs are addressed.





Action Plan



PHASE 1:

First 6 Months – Public Trust

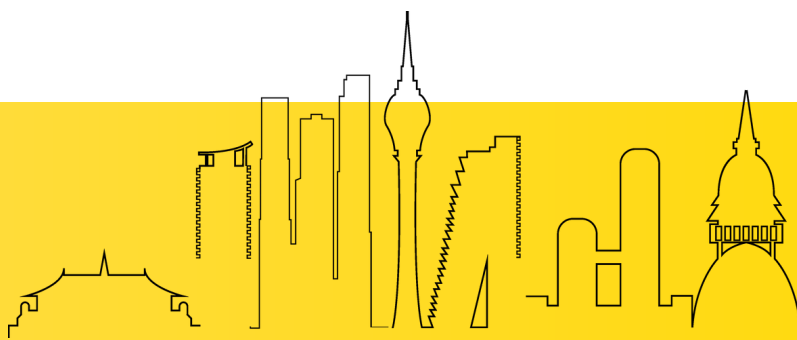
Show visible change, build confidence, and lay the foundation for reform.

Key Actions

- Clean Colombo: Launch 24/7 cleanup teams, complaint hotline, GPS tracking for trucks
- Flood-Free Colombo: Clean critical drains, create flood-risk maps, launch community flood alerts
- Move Colombo Better: Start pilot van routes in disconnected areas; focus on school access
- Homes for Dignity: Begin emergency upgrades in dangerous flats, start preparation for relocation
- Safe Women: Light 50 high-risk areas, begin pad bank and helpdesk pilot
- Colombo Works: Open Job Link Desks, begin youth registration and skills sessions
- Play Colombo: Start monthly public festivals and open community sports spaces
- Digital Council: Digitise trade/stall licenses, launch complaints portal and spending tracker
- Learn Early, Learn Fair: Launch 2 mobile preschool pilots and after-school help corners
- Colombo for All: Start accessibility audits and install basic ramps at 10 key locations

What Success Looks Like

- Cleaner streets, safer areas, first digital tools working
- Children, seniors, and women feel noticed and supported
- Visible change people can see, feel, and use



PHASE 2:

6 to 18 Months – Build Systems & Scale Up

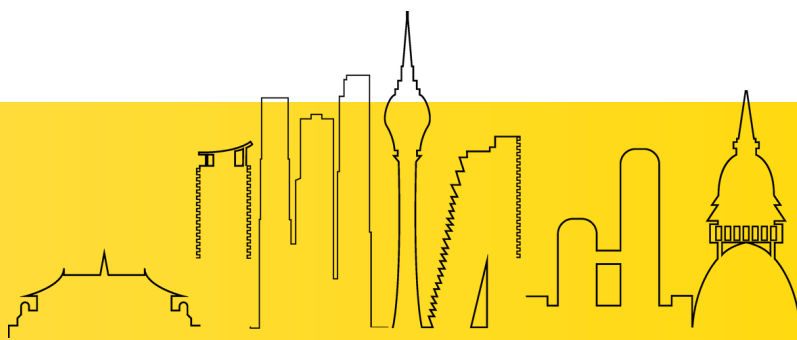
Deepen reforms, expand services, and build lasting systems.

Key Actions

- Clean Colombo: Scale segregation and anti-dumping enforcement
- Flood-Free Colombo: Install sensors in major drains, upgrade high-risk micro-drainage
- Transport: Expand community van network to 5+ zones, digitise bus stop safety tracking
- Housing: Begin in-situ upgrades in flats, roll out digital housing registry
- Women: Build 3 women-only hubs, scale pad banks to 15 locations
- Jobs: Open youth work hubs, launch micro-grant program for youth entrepreneurs
- Entertainment: Expand cultural events to 6 wards, launch Colombo Culture Card
- Digital Council: Go cashless for fees, add QR codes to all city projects
- Education: Scale mobile preschools, introduce City Kids Pass, train childcare workers
- Inclusion: Roll out Colombo Care Pass, start signage & communication upgrades, train access guides
- Establish community-based day support groups and a Safe Return ID system for people living with dementia — easing the burden on caregivers and ensuring safety.
- Deploy more mobile clinics and neighbourhood health desks to reach underserved communities.

What Success Looks Like:

- Most city services now available online
- Youth are working or training; families see improved housing
- Public spaces are active, events are happening, and Colombo feels alive



PHASE 3:

18 Months to 3 Years – Legacy & Long-Term Impact

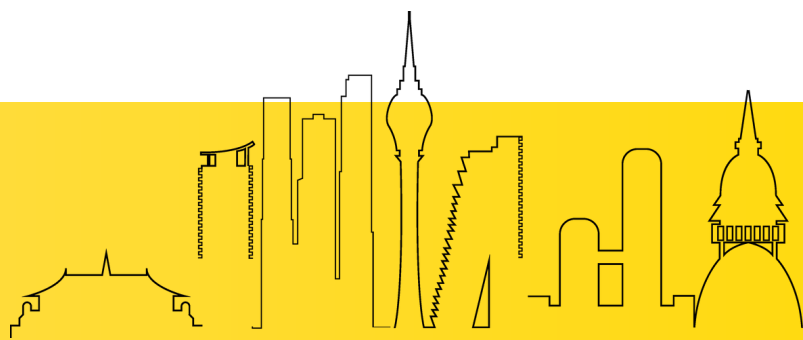
Lock in reform, future-proof systems, and transform lives city-wide.

Key Actions

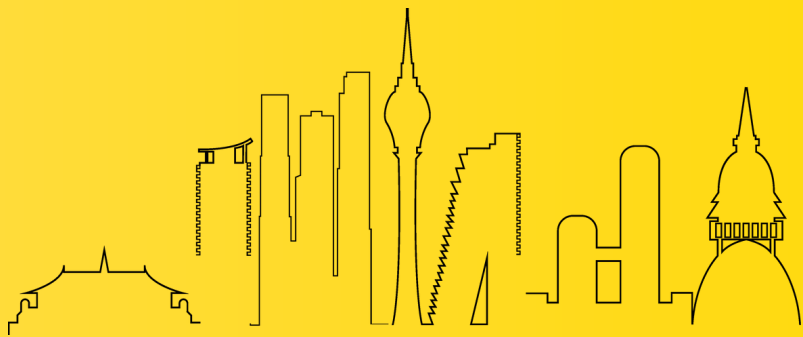
- 100% digitisation of all council permits, payments, and complaints
- All major drains and flood zones monitored and managed with smart tech
- Youth employment system sustained through private partnerships
- Child-friendly zones established in every underserved ward
- All major public spaces made accessible for seniors and people with disabilities
- Culture, sports, and tourism become everyday parts of Colombo life
- Transparency systems publicly report every rupee and every project

What Success Looks Like:

- Colombo becomes the model for a digital, inclusive, and people-first city
- Services work better, waste is managed, and corruption is pushed out
- Youth, women, seniors, and children all feel like the city belongs to them



A Happier Colombo Task Force Model



Each focus area will be led by a dedicated task force to ensure delivery, transparency, and legal accountability.

Key Principles for All Task Forces:

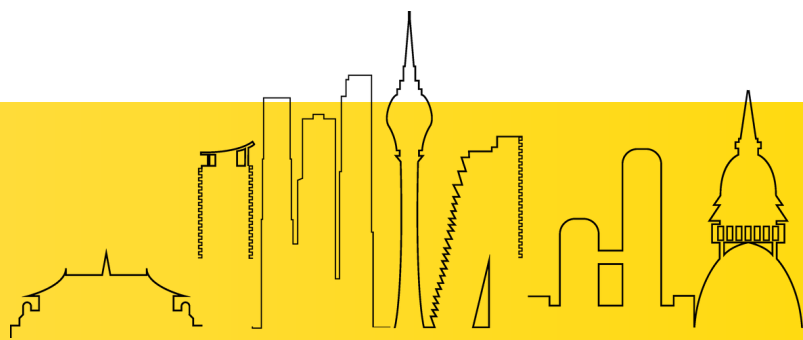
- Chaired by the Mayor or Deputy
- Includes subject experts, councillors from all political parties, and community representatives
- Supported by a dedicated legal advisor or panel for guidance on laws, regulations, and enforcement
- Meets monthly to review progress, solve challenges, and publish updates
- Shares progress through the Colombo Dashboard and ward-level noticeboards

Clear Streets, Clean Systems Task Force

Focus: Waste collection, recycling, bin management

Members:

- Senior waste management expert
- Public Health Inspector
- CMC sanitation engineer
- Councillors from across wards
- Private waste/recycling company rep
- Community leader from clean-up initiative
- Legal advisor to ensure compliance with environmental and municipal laws



Each focus area will be led by a dedicated task force to ensure delivery, transparency, and legal accountability.

Dry Today, Safe Tomorrow Task Force

Focus: Drainage, flooding, sewers, micro-drain upgrades

Members:

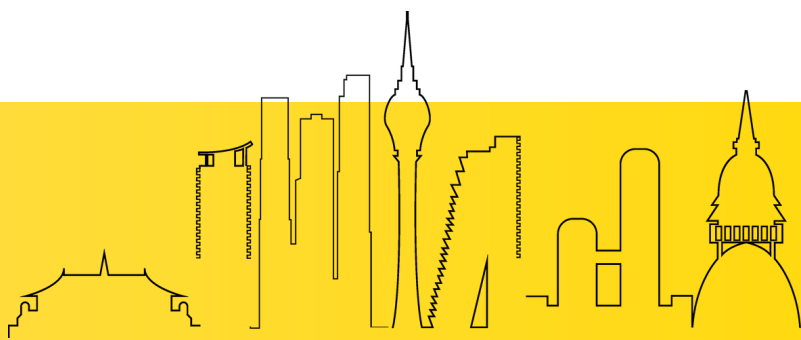
- Civil engineer (drainage/flooding)
- CMC drainage team lead
- Environmental NGO rep
- Youth rep from high-risk zone
- Councillor from flood-prone ward
- Public works rep
- Legal advisor for land use, environmental protection, and contractor guidelines

Closer Routes, Stronger Links Task Force

Focus: Road-based transport, school access, safe connectivity

Members:

- Transport planner
- Bus/tuk union rep
- School principal rep
- Parent rep from low-access area
- Councillors from underserved zones
- Youth community leader
- Legal advisor for transport regulations and vehicle permit laws



Each focus area will be led by a dedicated task force to ensure delivery, transparency, and legal accountability.

Safe Roofs, Strong Roots Task Force

Focus: Low-income housing upgrades, relocation, legal rights

Members:

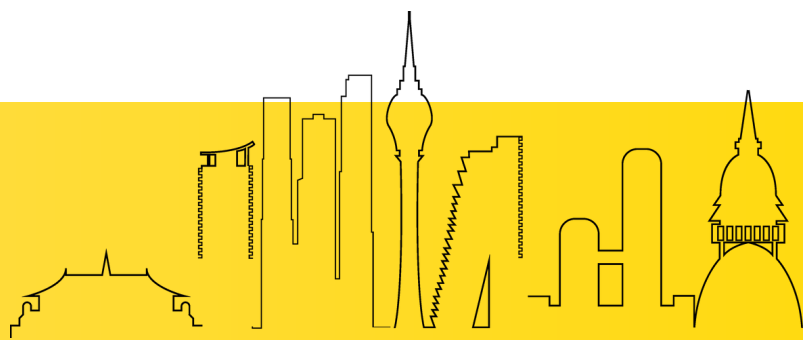
- Urban planning/housing expert
- Housing ministry rep
- Community leader from a flat
- Female head of household rep
- Land rights NGO
- Councillors from housing-focused wards
- Legal advisor for tenancy, land ownership, and relocation law

Her Right to the City Task Force

Focus: Women's safety, hygiene, access to public spaces

Members:

- Women's rights activist
- Female councillors from across parties
- Market vendor or informal worker rep
- Police rep or public safety officer
- Youth rep from a women-led org
- Social worker (Gender Based Violence support)
- Legal advisor for harassment laws, gender protections, and enforcement



Each focus area will be led by a dedicated task force to ensure delivery, transparency, and legal accountability.

Jobs that Build Futures Task Force

Focus: Youth employment, skills development, entrepreneurship

Members:

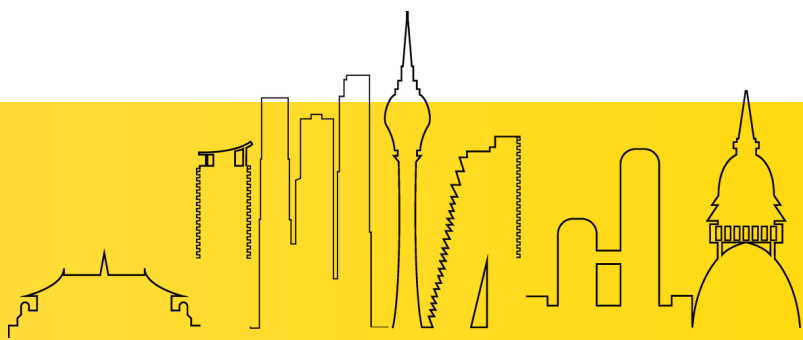
- SME or startup leader
- Vocational trainer
- Councillor with youth or economic focus
- Two employable youth
- Business chamber rep
- NGO working on youth jobs
- Legal advisor for labour law, contracts, and micro-enterprise compliance

Live Loud, Shine Proud Task Force

Focus: Sports, entertainment, public events, tourism

Members:

- Sports coach or youth team manager
- Cultural event planner or artist
- Councillor from active zones
- Tourism board rep
- Public safety/logistics officer
- Youth rep from arts/performing community
- Legal advisor for public event regulations, artist licensing, and vendor permits



Each focus area will be led by a dedicated task force to ensure delivery, transparency, and legal accountability.

Smart City, Clean Systems Task Force

Focus: Technology, digitisation, transparency, anti-corruption

Members:

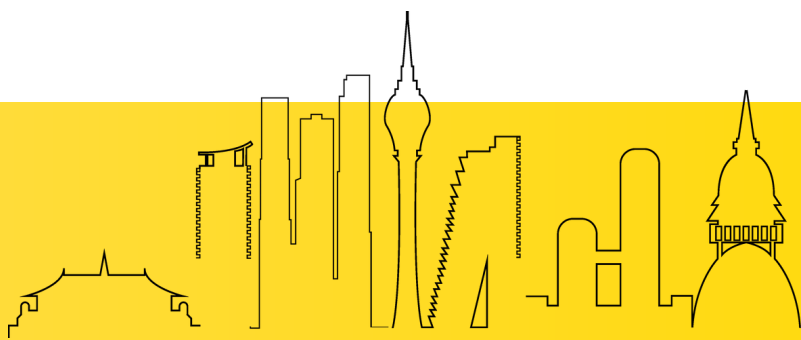
- Tech implementation expert
- Cybersecurity advisor
- Digital youth startup rep
- CMC Internal Auditor
- Councillors across all parties
- NGO focused on open governance
- Legal advisor for data privacy, digital rights, and e-governance law

Learn Early, Learn Fair Task Force

Focus: Early childhood access, learning hubs, parental support

Members:

- Preschool teacher or early childhood specialist
- Parent rep from underserved ward
- Youth volunteer tutor
- NGO focused on school access
- Community women's group rep
- Education ministry representative
- Legal advisor for child protection, education rights, and safe spaces



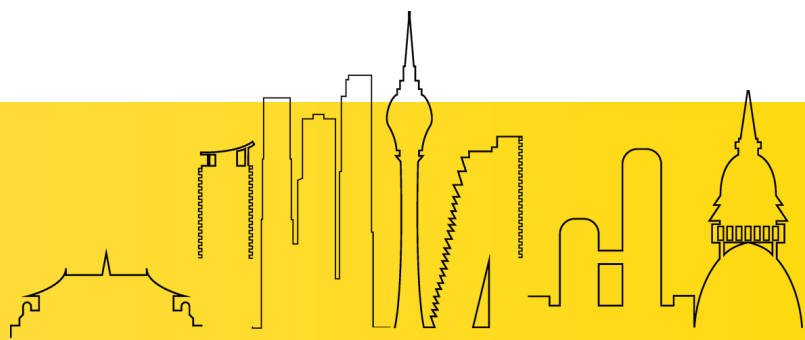
Each focus area will be led by a dedicated task force to ensure delivery, transparency, and legal accountability.

Access For Every Step Task Force

Focus: Accessibility, inclusion, mobility for seniors and people with disabilities

Members:

- Disability rights advocate
- Urban architect (inclusive design)
- Councillor from a mixed-use ward
- Elderly citizen representative
- Caregiver or support worker rep
- NGO working on disability services
- Legal advisor for accessibility rights, building code compliance, and anti-discrimination law



Thank You

Dr. Ruvaiz Haniffa

drruvaizhaniffa.lk

