

Megapolis Plan for the Western Province

The new government of Sri Lanka aspires to open new doors for the investment sector of Sri Lanka in taking the first step towards its flagship Megapolis project, by the formation of the separate ministry for this purpose.

The concept of 'Megalopolis' (also known as Megapolis in current context) ("great city" in Greek language) has been popularized by French geographer Jean Gottmann. The general characteristics of his concept of Megalopolis are: high population density; concentrated money market (from the nation's capital to the largest financial



institutions, security exchanges, and insurance companies); revolution in land distribution (rather than maintaining the traditional push-pull relationship between rural and urban areas, the Megapolis saw a new pattern of symbiosis emerge between the rural and the urban, partially as a result of a new counter-pull of manufacturers in suburban areas); job creation and enhanced trade; fluid transportation between areas (through highway, railroad, and airport infrastructure) Gottmann, in his research, notes the need for a more fluid system of traffic in a Megapolis as its cities become more integrated and interdependent than in the rest of the country.

The Megapolis plan will convert the hitherto unplanned Western Province into a major megapolis by 2030 with an estimated population of 8.4 million.

The plan – which was developed by CESMA in Singapore in consultation with experienced architects and town planners – includes business centres in the financial district around Pettah, a recreation and entertainment district around Beira Lake, a shopping district around Slave Island and a Harbour front district.

It will also address Colombo's housing problem and other socio-economic issues in a comprehensive manner and positioning Colombo as the best city in the South Asian region. The project will be carried out in a manner that will preserve cultural and historical "riches" of the Western province.

The master plan maps out a vision for the Western region from Negombo to Beruwala while the core area plan for Colombo maps out a detailed long term development project for a population of two million. The Colombo core area will be divided into 12 areas as part of the planning process and will also focus on pedestrian traffic and parking management as the existing pedestrian network is not well linked and the segregation of pedestrian traffic from vehicular traffic is inadequate.

This plan will open doors to immense opportunities for local work force as well as foreign investors and firms who aspire to enter Sri Lanka.

As such, the early mover advantage is high for any party who is interested in partaking in the development boom of the emerging wonder of Asia and as the most credible business facilitator of the country, we assure to guide you in the process of being a pioneer in the next investment revolution of Sri Lanka.

