



Asian Productivity Organization “The APO in the News”

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‘Plans to reduce maternity deaths in estates’

BY MUDITHA DAYANANDA

Addressing a seminar at the National Productivity Secretariat Consultant Gynecologist, Dr. Navas Jiffrey said that effective plans are being made to reduce child and maternity death rate in the plantation sector to the barest minimum by developing health and sanitation facilities. He said a team comprising representatives of the two ministries, headed by the Asian Productivity Organisation’s Knowledge Management and Medical Specialist Dr. Prabha Nair was scheduled to visit Kotmale and Gampola MOH divisions yesterday on a fact finding mission. He said the project would be inaugurated in Sogama and Rothschild estates in the Nuwara Eliya District.

“Sri Lanka Gynecologists’ Association has set a target to reduce child and maternity death rates in the country to zero level by the end of this year. However, we are not able to achieve this unless we change the situation in



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the estates. Infant death rate reported in 2012 stood at six per cent and it was entirely from the estates. This was increased to 20 percent, and 18 percent have been reported from upcountry and this was due to the lack of knowledge among mothers. Economic constraints, poor facilities available in hospitals were the main reasons for this situation. A healthy workforce will increase the income of the estates and the

Estate Managements also should co-operate with us to implement the programme.” Dr. Jiffrey said.

Director of the Gampola Teaching Hospital Dr. Sarath Weerabandara, Community Health Specialist Dr. Gamini Jayakody, Asian Productivity Organisation’s Resident Director in Sri Lanka Tilaka Jayawardene, Kandy Zonal Director of the Plantation Human Development Trust Atula Senaratne and Dr. Thushara Fernando were present at the seminar.

This plan would be jointly implemented by the Ministry of Productivity Promotion with the help of the Ministry of Health and the Asian Productivity Organisation.