

George Steuart Teas Lays Foundation For A New Tea Processing And Packaging Facility

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Left image: the design model of George Steuart Teas processing and packaging facility. Right image: (L-R): Dai Pathmanathan, MD, George Steuart Teas; Dilith Jayaweera, Chairman, George Steuarts and Prof Priyan Mendis, Structural Engineer at the foundation laying ceremony.

George Steuart Teas laid the foundation stone for a modern, state-of-the-art Tea processing and packaging facility in Thalwatta, Kelaniya. This complex will be built on a six-acre land extent and the building area will cover over 150,000 sq/feet. The facility will carry out tea and packing material storing, processing, blending, bagging and packaging. Furthermore the manufacturing process follows ISO 9001:2015, ISO 22000:2018, HACCP, GMP and Organic standards. The storage area will have capacity to store over one million kilos of tea and will be equipped with a temperature controlled cold room to store herbs and flavors to preserve the freshness and quality. The complex is strategically located in close proximity to tea broker warehouses, main highways to access the port, airport and other parts of the country. This will enable ease of logistics for Sri Lankan and international distribution.

The facility will be equipped with modern, fully automated machinery including staple free tea bagging machines, blending machines, pouch machines and multi-

layer storage racking systems. International buyers will be able to do tea tasting sessions and also visit a miniature tea garden, which will complete the experience within the same location. Dilith Jayaweera, Chairman, George Steuarts said, "As the oldest tea company in Sri Lanka, we are very proud of our journey thus far, and this venture will allow us to further show our commitment to promote Ceylon Tea to the world and to cater to global standards and requirements". Dai Pathmanathan, MD, George Steuart Teas said, "We are happy to embark on this project to enable George Steuart Teas to further improve on quality standards, capacity and to efficiently serve our customers both internationally and locally". Project partners include Access Engineering, Civil & Structural Engineering Consultants (CSEC) and George Steuart Engineering. The project is planned to be completed in 2022, first quarter at an estimated cost of US 10 million dollars