## **LEAD Unit Launched in the Southern Province**

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The official launch of the Lead Enterprise unit was held under the patronage of Goonerathne Weerakoon, Minister of Regional Development, and Shan Wijeyalal de Silva, Chief Minister of the Southern Province recently. This was followed by stakeholder awareness and proposed activity plan presentation workshop. Two hundred participants representing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Enterprise Development Services (EDS), Participatory Financial Institutions (PFI) and NGO's were involved with the workshop.

The LED unit is a part of the Southern Province Rural Economic Advancement Project (SPREAP). It is an economic development project funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and is under the guidance of the Ministry of Regional Development and the Southern Provincial Council. The objective of the project is to support the government to accelerate economic growth, create additional income and employment opportunities in the Southern Province.