



Sri Lanka Tourism

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NOTICE

LEASING OF UCHCHAMUNAI ISLAND IN KALPITIYA

There are various media exposure and reports leading to public misinformation on the above and thus, the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) would like to clarify the matter.

As per the Tourism Act No 38 2005 SLTDA is mandated to lease out SLTDA owned lands to potential investors to develop and operate tourism hotels and resorts in a planned and sustainable manner. The SLTDA as in the past has continued to do so, attracting both foreign and local investments, and has been held answerable to the Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE) for any delays in signing of lease agreements for already approved projects.

Regarding the Uchchamunai island in Kalpitiya, the SLTDA had followed the proper procedure and obtained all necessary approvals to lease out the property to a foreign investor for 30 years as per land alienation policy. The approval process was completed in late 2020 for a USD 417.5 Million project and signing of the lease agreement was delayed due to the investor request.

The Investor's representative arrived in Sri Lanka on 8th May 2022 to sign the lease agreement, and the SLTDA signed the Lease Agreement on 11th May 2022, as the investor was scheduled to leave the island late night on the same day.

We kindly request the tourism stakeholders and the general public in Sri Lanka to be cautious and not to be misled by false and incorrect information.

Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority

12th May 2022