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## President calls for national policy on integration, reconciliation

(Island.lk) - President Maithripala Sirisena addressing members of Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation

President Maithripala Sirisena has directed the Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation to prepare a draft national policy on national integration and reconciliation as soon as possible. The President has also urged the Ministry to launch a programme to educate the general public on the constitutional reform proposals relating to integration and reconciliation.

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Ministry: "The activities of the Ministry were reviewed at a meeting last Friday (22) at the President's official residence presided by President Maithripala Sirisena, who is the Minister in charge of the Ministry. The State Minister of National Integration and Reconciliation A H M Fowzie, Ministry Secretary Dr. M Ganeshamoorthy, State Secretary M M Zuhair PC, Addl. Secretary J A K N Jayatunge, Addl. Secretary Dr Mrs HMS Jayatunge, Chief Accountant D G H D Perera and

Cordinating Secretary to Ministry Secretary Emmanuel Vasanthan attended the review meeting.

The President said the provisions of the proposed Constitution dealing with matters under the purview of the Ministry and related issues must be placed before the public and discussed. The general public particularly in the South must be educated on these proposals. The Ministry must recruit persons with special knowledge and expertise on contract to carry out this task. This must be given priority, the President said. He also pointed out the need to coordinate with the electronic, print and social media in conveying the proposals to the country. This will facilitate parliamentary approval.

Ministry Secretary Dr. M Ganeshamoorthy explained in detail the 14 point programme concerning the Ministry activities and proposed action plan. He referred to the Schools Programme inaugurated by the President on 5th May and the activities that followed thereafter. He said the

responses from the student and the teaching staff were excellent. He said the theme of healthy coexistence will be further enhanced through the sports activities to be inaugurated at Hali-ela on Sunday by the President at the initiation of State Minister of Highways Dilan Perera with the participation of Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Sports Dayasiri Jayasekera, Minister of Telecommunications and Digital Infrastructure Harin Fernando, Minister of National Co-existence Dialogue and Official Languages Mano Ganeshan, Chief Minister of the Uva Province Chamara Sampath Dasanayaka and State Minister of National Integration and



President Maithripala Sirisena addressing members of Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation

Reconciliation A H M Fowzie. He said the Ministry of National Integration is a co-sponsor of the Unity Sports Festival in Hali-Ela where students from all three communities will unite under one group and contest with other similar groups, with the broader aim of fostering unity through sports."

### Treasures enshrined in Moragahakanda



### BIA closed for renovations for 3 months from Jan 2017

(DailyMirror.lk) - The main runway of the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) would be closed for three months from January 5 next year for renovations, Transport Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva said today. He said it would be closed from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm every day for those three months. "The BIA will be closed for eight hours a day during which a selected area of the runway would be renovated for four hours and allowed to cool down for another four hours," the Minister said. A Netherland advisory team has been selected for the renovation project through a tender procedure. The Minister told a media briefing that flights could be allowed to land at the BIA for about another one year according to International Air Transport regulation because the runway had not been renovated since 1958. Work on a new Airport Terminal would also begin at the


BIA next year. A concessionary loan agreement for Rs. 56 million was signed on March 24 between Airport and Aviation Services Ltd. and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to expand the capacity of the BIA. The new terminal would be built with a grant of US\$ 800 million from the JICA. It has been planned to complete the terminal within two years. The new multi-level terminal with an approximate floor area of 180,000 square metres where arrivals and departures are separated vertically would provide capacity of handling 15 million passengers per year. The project would include 23 aircraft parking stands with additional 96 check-in counters, eight baggage claim belts, seven baggage make-up carousels, 16 contact boarding gates with 28 passenger boarding bridges and six bus gates. (Chaturanga Pradeep)

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**MUTTIAH MURALIDARAN**

Tests - 800 wickets, Average - 22.72,  
Best figures - 9/51  
ODIs - 534 wickets, Average - 23.08,  
Best figures - 7/30  
5 wicket hauls: Tests - 67, ODIs - 10

ICC-CRICKET.COM  
#ICCHallOfFame

**Murali to be inducted into ICC Cricket Hall of Fame**

The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced today that Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan will be inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame. He is the first Sri Lankan to be accorded the honour.

ICC Chief Executive David Richardson said: "The ICC Cricket Hall of Fame recognises some of the truly great players from cricket's long and illustrious history." "Muralitharan has been one of the greats of the modern era. His guile and consistency over the years helped Sri Lanka develop as a very competitive side in both Tests and ODI cricket."

Murali is the current record wicket-taker in the Test and ODI formats of the game.

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