Awareness Programme for Provincial Commissioners, District/Divisional Assistant Commissioners, and Provincial Coordinating Committee Officers of the Department of Co-operative Development – June 23, 2026

A programme aimed to strengthen the Risk-based Anti-Money Laundering, Countering the Financing of Terrorism, and Countering the Financing of Proliferation (AML/CFT/CPF) framework within the financial co-operative Societies providing financial services in the co-operative sector was successfully conducted on June 23, 2026, by the Financial Intelligence Unit at CBSL.

The programme was attended by 50 senior officials from the Department of Co-operative Development including Provincial Commissioners representing all provinces, District and Divisional Assistant Commissioners, and Provincial Coordinating Committee Officers who oversee the affairs of financial co-operative societies. Several officials from the line department of the Co-operative Development, including the Commissioner of Co-operative Development and Registrar of Co-operative Societies, also participated in the programme.

The primary objective of the programme was to enhance awareness of the legal and regulatory requirements relating to AML/CFT/CPF compliance applicable to financial co-operative societies, with particular emphasis on establishing effective AML/CFT/CPF frameworks and appointing dedicated Compliance Officers.

Dr. Subhani Keerthirathne, Director Financial Intelligence Unit, delivered opening remarks, emphasizing the importance of implementing effective AML/CFT/CPF framework within financial co-operative Societies. She also outlined Sri Lanka's preparations for the forthcoming FATF Mutual Evaluation, and the expectations placed on the co-operative sector in demonstrating effective implementation of AML/CFT/CPF measures.

Mrs. Tharani Kumaradasa, the Commissioner of Co-operative Development and Registrar of Co-operative Societies, also addressed the participants and underscored the importance of strengthening AML/CFT/CPF compliance within the co-operative sector through continued awareness and capacity-building initiatives. The technical session was delivered by Mrs. Theja Pathberiya, Deputy Director of the Financial Intelligence Unit, and covered key areas, including ML/TF/PF concepts, Sri Lanka’s legal framework on AML/CFT/CPF, risk-based approach, key compliance obligations applicable to co-operative Societies and the outcomes of National Risk Assessment 2024/25 in relation to co-operative Sector.

The programme forms part of ongoing efforts to strengthen regulatory awareness and promote effective implementation of AML/CFT/CPF measures within the co-operative sector.