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## EDUCATION TIMES

### Official Languages Day celebrated with essay competition

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In 2019, the Government of Sri Lanka declared the first day of the month of July every year as the Official Languages Day and the first week of the month from July 1 to July 5 as the Official Languages Week.

Thereafter, to educate people on the Official Languages Policy, many programmes were implemented on the theme 'significant contribution extended by language towards the progression of culture and human rights' each year.

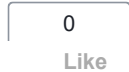
Even amidst various challenges last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Official Languages Commission in collaboration with the National Languages Equality Advancement Project (NLEAP) held an essay competition for schoolchildren. The main aim of this project was to commemorate the importance of effective contribution of the Official Languages Week.



This islandwide competition was held in Sinhala, Tamil and English, under junior and senior categories with the support of many parties which led to its success.

More than 1000 essays were received in Sinhala, Tamil and English which were examined by Prof. Sandagomi Coperahewa (Sectional Head of the Faculty of Sinhala at the University of Colombo), Dr. Kavitha Rajaratnam (Senior Lecturer in the Linguistic Division at the University of Kelaniya) and Prof. S.G.S. Samaraweera (Sectional Head of the Faculty of English at the University of Ruhuna) respectively.

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