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## **SIGNIFICANCE OF DEVELOPING MUSEUMS IN SRI LANKA AS TOURIST ATTRACTIONS: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO NATIONAL MUSEUMS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Museum is a place which exhibits the culture, life style, ancient heritage, natural heritage and hereditary features of a particular society. Both theoretically and practically museums can be recognized as important and complicated institutions. There are various types of museums in the world along with in Sri Lanka, among which National Museums are one leading variety. Tourism is a fast growing industry in the world as well as in Sri Lanka. National Museums are significant variety among the tourist attractions as museums are directly connected with the numerous concepts of tourism. Hence, Sri Lanka has potentials to develop well organized and more attractive museums. The main objective of this research article is to explicate the significance of developing museums in Sri Lanka as tourist attractions with special reference to the museums related to Department of National Museums, Sri Lanka. In this research article we expound the potentials that can be used to develop visitor arrivals and attractions to the museums related to the Department of National Museums through forming a promotional network within those museums, by base on Colombo National Museum. Therefore, we used library survey method and field research method to collect data.*

**KEY WORDS:** *Sri Lanka, National, Museums, Tourist attraction*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The official website of ICOM stated that “The definition of a museum has evolved, in line with developments in society. Since its creation in 1946, ICOM updates this definition in accordance with the realities of the global museum community”. Therefore, ICOM has defined, “A museum is a non-profit, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment.” (ICOM Statutes adopted by the 22nd General Assembly Vienna, Austria, 24 August 2007).

According to this definition the main functions of museums are collecting objects, documentation, conservation, exhibition, research and publication, and education. Apart from that museums are depends on its collection and collection of museum objects are considered as the heart of museum.

### 1.1 Museums in Sri Lanka

The Colombo National Museum is the first Sri Lankan museum and it is built in 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1877. Sir William Henry Gregory (The British Governor of Ceylon) was the founder of Colombo National Museum. The Colombo National Museum is constructed according to the Italian architectural style by the J. G. Smither who was the Architect of the Public Works Department (De Silva. 1996, p.p. 11, Dissanayake. 1999, p.p. 25-26, Dissanayake. 2006, p.p. 11-14, <http://www.museum.gov.lk>).

Further, the museum originated by Kandy Art Council was named as Kandy National Museum. Colombo National Museum and Kandy National Museums lead to establish the Department of National Museums. After 1942, regional museums were established with the legal environment created by the Regional National Museums ordinance. Moreover, the Department of National Museums was beginning Science museum for schools, and Mobile museums (De Silva. 1996, p.p. 11, Herath & Ranjith. 2005, p.p. xxv-xxvi).

Establishing the Department of Archaeology in 1890, the first Archaeological Museum in Sri Lanka was established at Anuradhapura. After that Dedigama and Polonnaruwa Archaeological Museums were established (Herath & Ranjith. 2005, p.p. xxvi). As a result of this process numbers of museums were increased under the Department of National Museums, Department of Archaeology, Central Cultural Fund, Government and Non-government institutions, Religious institutions, and Private sector. Museums in Sri Lanka could be categorized according to the status of administration, and the form of objects.

### 1.2 Museums related to the Department of National Museums, Sri Lanka

At present Colombo National Museum, National Museum of Natural History, Dutch Museum, Kandy

National Museum, Ratnapura National Museum, Galle National Museum, Maritime Museum- Galle, Anuradhapura Folk Museum, Independence Memorial Museum, and Magampura Ruhuna Heritage Museum are administrated by the Department of National Museums (<http://www.museum.gov.lk/web/>).

#### ▪ Colombo National Museum -

The National Museum of Colombo could be considered as a place which is remembered eternally within the museum tradition of Sri Lanka. It was founded in 1<sup>st</sup> January 1877, during the tenure of office of British Colonial Governor, Sir William Henry Gregory. The Colombo National Museum is consisting with unique collection, and reference library. (De Silva. 1996, p.p. 11, Dissanayake. 1999, p.p. 25-35, Dissanayake. 2006, p.p. 11-28, <http://www.museum.gov.lk/web/>)

#### ▪ National Museum of Natural History -

National Museum of Natural History which reflects and only one representing the Natural heritage was established on 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 1986. Plants and animal specimens which are endemic to Sri Lanka, and plants and animal specimens which are rare and threatened with extinction are displaying in this museum. There is a large collection of specimens of Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Insects, Fish, Amphibians, various kinds of Plants and Geological Rocks (Dissanayake. 2006, p.p. 46-47, <http://www.museum.gov.lk/web/>).

#### ▪ Dutch Museum -

Dutch Museum was established at the 17th century Dutch Urban house which was built by Thomas Van Rhee who was the Dutch Governor of Sri Lanka from 1692- 1697, and used this building as his official residence. This building was preserved by a special preservation committee with the assistance of Netherlands government in 1977. Further, this was opened for the public as Dutch museum by the Department of National Museums. It has displayed over 3000 museum objects related to the Dutch who ruled coastal areas of Sri Lanka during the period of 1658 – 1796 (Dissanayake. 1999, p.p. 45-47, Dissanayake. 2006, p.p. 43-47, <http://www.museum.gov.lk/web/>).

#### ▪ Kandy National Museum -

National Museum, Kandy is situated at the building named “*PalleVahala*” which was established during the reign period of Sri Wickrama Rajasingha and used as the palace of Queens. This building has the architectural features of Kandy period. This “*PalleVahala*” building was used to deposit the historically valued various items of Kandy Art Association, and this was opened for the public as a museum in 1942. This museum has over 5000 museum objects which are representing various aspects of the Kandyan period. (17-19 century A.D.) (De Silva. 1996, p.p. 11, Dissanayake. 1999, p.p. 34-37, Dissanayake. 2006, p.p. 34-36, <http://www.museum.gov.lk/web/>).

- **Ratnapura National Museum -**  
National Museum Ratnapura was established at the building known as “Ehelepola Walauva” This was opened for the public as a museum on 13th May 1988 and this museum has objects related to archaeological discoveries of prehistoric period, specimens of natural heritage, artifacts and models of geological, anthropological, zoological related to the Sabaragamuwa Province (Dissanayake. 1999, p.p. 37-38, Dissanayake. 2006, p.p. 36-38, <http://www.museum.gov.lk/web/>).
- **Galle National Museum -**  
The Galle National Museum is established in the oldest Dutch building of the Galle fort, constructed in 1656. The Department of National Museums developed this museum and opened to the public on 31st March 1986. Galle National Museum displays a wide range of archaeological and anthropological objects inherited in Southern region, such as; Collection of traditional masks used in various rituals, collection of ornamental objects made up of turtle shells, ancient wooden carvings and a *Beeralu* collection (Dissanayake. 1999, p.p. 41-43, Dissanayake. 2006, p.p. 41-42, <http://www.museum.gov.lk/web/>).
- **Maritime Museum- Galle -**  
Maritime Museum is located in the Old Dutch ware house of the fort of Galle, built in 1671. This was opened to the public on 9th May 1992. Maritime Museum is the only museum which based on marine biological and anthropological aspects of Southern coastal area. Maritime Museum is exhibits types of watercrafts used in passenger transport and maritime trading in Southern Sri Lanka, the traditional life style of fishing communities and fishing techniques, marine eco systems and their flora and fauna, specimens of corals, marine shells and some invertebrates (Dissanayake. 1999, p.p. 42-45, Dissanayake. 2006, p.p. 42-43, <http://www.museum.gov.lk/web/>).
- **Anuradhapura Folk Museum -**  
Anuradhapura Folk Museum was established in 22nd August 1971 as a provincial Museum under the Department of National Museums. The aim of this museum is to collect, conserve and exhibit the cultural and religious objects used by the folk community in Nuwara-Kalaviya area. Therefore, the museum objects collection is consisting with traditional objects used by the folk community in Nuwara-Kalaviya (Dissanayake. 1999, p.p. 39-40, Dissanayake. 2006, p.p. 38-40, <http://www.museum.gov.lk/web/>).
- **Independence Memorial Museum -**  
Independence Memorial Museum is located at the Independence square premises. The aims and objectives of this museum exhibition is establish the regeneration of our pride and reminding of the great efforts taken over the centuries until 1972 when we regained in gain independence, by our national heroes and their bio-sketches, for the benefit

of the future generations (<http://www.museum.gov.lk/web/>).

- **Magampura Ruhuna Heritage Museum**  
Magampura Heritage National Museum was established at the building of Old *Kachcheri*. This museum consists with the collection of objects related to heritage of Magampura-Ruhuna, art and architecture, colonial period, after the period of obtaining independence, and natural environment (<http://www.museum.gov.lk/web/>).

### 1.3 Tourism

At present tourism is a fast growing and competitive industry in the world. Tourism industry is a combination of several products and services. As Kapoor (2007) stated, tourist, transportation, accommodation, restaurants, recreation, shopping complexes, well known places, religious destinations and outgoing are the main components of tourism. Hence, tourism industry is accompanied with subsectors of travel and transport, food and beverage services, accommodation, guiding, and entertainment. For the decades, tourism has experienced continued growth and deepening diversification. Therefore, for an examples Eco-tourism, Nature tourism, Forest tourism, Bird watching, insects and butterfly watching tourism, Geo-tourism, Agro-tourism, Cultural tourism, Medicine tourism, Community based tourism, Village tourism, Educational tourism, Sports tourism, Adventure tourism, Food tourism and Accessibility tourism, and Meetings, Incentives, Conferencing and Exhibitions (MICE) tourism, can be considered as new tourism marketing Diversifications of the world (Ganewaththa & Wickramarathna. 2012, Pathirana, 2013, Silva & Guruge, 2011).

### 1.4 Tourism Industry in Sri Lanka

Tourism is in a significant position in generation of income, foreign exchange and provision of employment opportunities. Also, tourism is an imperative industry which was identified as a benefited aspect on boom of economy of a country. Tourism is a fast growing industry in Sri Lanka similar to the condition of tourism industry in the world. According to the Annual Report of Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (2017), emphasized that the Tourists Arrivals of Sri Lanka has been rapidly grew in the period of 2010 to 2016.

### 1.5 Attractions and Potentials of Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has several tourist destinations, as it contains combination of varied attractions, such as beaches, cultural heritage, wildlife, endemic flora and fauna, and unique landscapes. According to the attractions in Sri Lanka, that offers diversification of experiences for tourists, through beach holidays, wild safaris, adventure sports, adventure tours, whale watching, discover the past, pilgrimage, Ayurveda, nature trails, scenic beauty, events, meetings and conferences, Colombo city tour, eco-tourism, night life, dining, spice gardens, tourist shops, shopping,

art and crafts, volunteer tourism, research tourism, things to see and lesser known attractions (Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau 2015).

Most of the National Museums are located within the area of currently functioned tourist destinations in Sri Lanka, such as; Anuradhapura, Kandy, and Galle. This potential is highly significant to promote National Museums in Sri Lanka as tourist attractions.

### **1.6 Museums and Tourism**

Museums are certainly complex organizations with multiple purposes, functions, and roles to perform (Kotler and Kotler. 1998, p.p:28). One of the challenges is to balance the conservation and use of the resources, the heritage, and to sustain that balance. Further, several research has found that strong motivations to visit museums are for leisure and entertainment. Apart from that always Museums could be considered as tourist destinations. Therefore, Museums have been intimately linked with the leisure sector, especially in studies related to marketing of museums (Kelly. 2007, p.p:32).

Nevertheless, Perera (n.d.) stated that museum audiences have a strong link to tourism, since tourists are a part of the audiences and for some museums even a large part of the total number of visitors as in the book titled "Museum Strategy and Marketing: Designing Missions, Building Audiences, Generating Revenue and Resources". Therefore, Museum and tourism are interconnected and reflect the image of the particular country and its inhabitants. Further, museum has an immense role to play to conserve, research, and exhibit heritage in country. Hence, museum needs a development in financial aspect.

The Key-definition on Museum given by the International Council of Museums explains the fundamental nature and function of the museum. The element of "non-profit" is of utmost importance regarding the operation and it is also related to the governmental body of the museum and its financial responsibilities. As a non-profit organization in service of society the museum is dependent on society's support, both public support and even political. The issue that a museum is to be a permanent institution does also address the governing body's responsibilities to maintain and sustain the operation and its function. (Benediktsson. 2004, p.p: 08).

Apart from that museums do have such complicated obligations, they are facing all kind of other challenges and difficulties, for example related to financial issues and funding. Today most museums are under pressure, simply to prove their social value and the importance of their existence. There is also an increased demand for them to "apply ways of measuring their performance which are more appropriate to the commercial world." (Benediktsson. 2004, p.p: 09). Hence, that could be considered developing the tourist attraction on Museums is a significant and appropriate approach for balance the financial issues in Museums.

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

The main objective of this research article is to explicate the significance of developing museums in Sri Lanka as tourist attractions with special reference to the museums related to Department of National Museums, Sri Lanka. Apart from that promoting National Museums through each Regional National Museum, develop Regional National Museums as a city symbols, develop the social-economic aspects of host community, and increase the government revenue are specific objectives of this research article.

## **3. METHODOLOGY**

Field research method and library survey method were used to carry out this study. Especially, the field research method was used to gather data, and statistical data included in Annual Report of SLTDA (Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority), on visitor arrivals belongs to National Museums of Sri Lanka are also used to recognize the present status and visitor attraction on National Museums. In addition, some primary and secondary literary sources were also used to collect data. Furthermore, the official website of Department of National Museum and official websites of leading museums in the world were used to identify the present visitor plans engaged with the museums.

There two main limitations were used in this research. One of a main limitation of this research is Museums related to the Department of National Museum, Sri Lanka. Therefore, in this research we considered about the ten National Museums in Sri Lanka which are administrating by the Department of National Museums. Another main limitation of this research is we referred the statistical data indicated at Sri Lanka Tourist Development Authority (SLTDA) Reports to recognize the tourist arrivals on Museums related to the Department of National Museums, Sri Lanka.

## **4. RESULTS**

### **4.1 Potentials of developing National Museums in Sri Lanka**

Sri Lanka has much potential to develop tourist attraction for museums by base on existing resources, such as; the collection of museum objects, Regional National Museums, and current tourist arrivals.

Museums related to the Department of National Museums have a unique collection of museum objects. Apart from that regional National Museums are always exhibiting a collection of museums objects which emphasize the regional significances.

Regional National Museums are another significant potential which is supportive to develop tourist attraction on museums. Therefore, ten Regional National Museums of Colombo National Museum, National Museum of Natural History, Dutch Museum, Kandy National Museum, Ratnapura National Museum, Galle National Museum, Maritime Museum- Galle, Anuradhapura Folk

Museum, Independence Memorial Museum, and Magampura Ruhuna Heritage Museum are existing resources and significant potential to develop tourist attraction on museums. Hence, there should not be exerts to establish new Regional National Museums. Nonetheless, establishing a Regional National Museums at Jaffna and Trincomalee areas could be advantaged.

Current tourist arrivals are major potential to develop tourist attraction on National Museums.

According to the statistical data that could be identified current tourist arrivals are considerably grew up with in past years.

The statistical data of Department of National Museums included in Sri Lanka Tourist Development Authority could be used to recognize the significance of museums for tourism sector in Sri Lanka. Therefore, statistical data about the international and domestic tourists who visited the National Museums in Sri Lanka during the year of 2017 and the revenue are indicated at the Table No. 01 (Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority. 2017).

Further, statistical data about the international tourists who visited the National Museums in Sri Lanka during the years of 2014 -2017 is indicated at the Table No.02 (Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority. 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017).

Furthermore, statistical data about the domestic tourists who visited the National Museums in Sri Lanka during the years of 2014 -2017 is indicated at the Table No. 03 (Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority. 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017).

## 5. SUGGESTIONS

Suggestions for developing museums in Sri Lanka as tourist attractions with special reference to the museums related to Department of National Museums are mainly based on the aspects of Promotion policy, Exhibition, Educational Activities, Electronic and Printed media, and other services.

### 5.1 Promotion policy

The promotion policy should be arranged according to the vision and mission statement of Department of National Museum. Especially, National Museums could be promoted as it developed as a city symbol. Therefore, we propose to develop the promotion policy of Department of National Museums base on the concept of city symbol to increase tourist attraction on Regional National Museums. Further, exhibition methods, educational activities, electronic and printed media, and other services are important and connected aspects which should include in the promotion policy.

### 5.2 Exhibition

Temporary Exhibitions are significant method to increase tourist attraction on National Museums. Hence, promote regional museums by exhibiting Master pieces of Colombo National Museum as organizing temporary exhibitions at branch National Museums is proposed by this article.

## 5.3 Educational Activities

Educational programs are very important to promote the Regional National Museums among both domestic and international audience. Therefore, this study proposed to conduct Regional Educational programs based on National Museums. Further, special lectures, monthly lectures, workshops, and seasonal workshops and lectures could be organized to increase tourist attraction.

Special lectures and monthly lectures could be organized based on topics related to regional areas which Regional National Museums are located. Therefore, special lectures and monthly lectures could be conducted on the topics which are related and significant to the regional areas.

Ex:- Kandy National Museum - Paintings of Kandyan Period

Galle National Museum - Architectural features of Galle Fort

Ratnapura National Museum - Pre-historic Period Fossils of Ratnapura

Dutch National Museum - Dutch Tomb Stones (to attract the Netherlands visitors)

Workshops also could be organized based on the topics related to regional areas which Regional National Museums are located.

Ex:-Kandy National Museum - Kandyan Pottery, Traditional Brass Technology, Lacquer art work

Galle National Museum - Traditional Masks

Ratnapura National Museum - Gemology, Jaggery and honey making technology

Moreover, regional museums could be organized special workshops for domestic and international scholars, special interest people, and people who are involved in tourism industry (Tour guides).

Seasonal workshops and Lectures could be organized based on the special ceremonies at regional areas. Hence, Regional National Museums could be promoted through the existence of special seasons in Sri Lanka that hereditary to each region.

Ex:-Kandy National Museum - Kandy Perehara season

Jaffna National Museum - Nallur Festival

Galle National Museum - Beach Festival

Apart from that half-price tickets could be issued for the participants of those lectures and workshops to visit particular museum as a promotional method.

Furthermore, this article proposed to develop the revenue of host community lives in regional areas through the regional museums. Therefore, regional National Museums could be created link between people who have ability to teach, and demonstrate intangible knowledge and traditional technology. For example, Regional National Museums could be engaged with traditional craftsman to perform the significance of intangible heritage. Apart from that, this process could be used

as a sustainable tourism development approach which based on host community.

#### **5.4 Electronic and Printed media**

At present the Department of National Museums is maintaining a website and it gives information on the Regional National Museums based on their location, commencement, and brief introduction about objects. Nevertheless, existence website does not give a separate links to other Regional National Museums. Therefore, this article proposed to develop a separate websites or webpages for all Regional National Museums which could be updated on time, and create a link to access all the websites or webpages of museums belongs to the Department of National Museums through the website of the Department of National Museums.

Moreover, collaborated promotional programs with archaeology related websites in Sri Lanka, collaborated promotional programs with Central Cultural Fund, Department of Archaeology, Department of National Archives, Universities, and Ministries, and create a web link to the website of Department of National Museums through other related and leading websites are significant methods to promote museums related to the Department of National Museums as tourist attractions.

At present there are e-cards only with the museum objects at Colombo National Museum. Therefore, we propose to create e-cards with the photographs of master pieces and museum objects related to Regional National Museums. Further, this article proposes to create a Museum Trailer which covering all the Museums belong to the Department of National Museums in Sri Lanka. Social media tools, such as; blogs, Twitter, YouTube and Facebook are also could be used for interact with international and domestic visitors. For an example displaying promotional posters on Facebook with images of special museum objects could be done as promotional activity.

Issuing free booklet or leaflet on National Museums in Sri Lanka as promotional activity for limited time duration, developing an information unit with modern technology (Visitor friendly Information Centre), online lectures and workshops, online booking system, annual schedule (Online calendar), make publicity for workshops and lectures through tour agents, and further develop the online app and Mobile app are another method that could be used for promote museums as tourist attractions.

Apart from that printed media, television and radio also could be used for promote museums belongs to the Department of National Museums as tourist attractions among both international and domestic tourists.

#### **5.5 Other services**

Department of National Museums could be organized tour package with collaboration of tour agents and tour operators. Further, Department of National Museums could be specially design packages for visitors to visit several National Museums which are located in same region or which are selected by visitors with discount tickets. Apart from that the Department of National Museums should have to develop sanitary facilities, food and beverage facilities, facilities for differently abled visitors, and other special facilities for visitors to promote museums as tourist attractions. Moreover, Department of National Museums could be promoted the significance of museum membership, and increase some special facilities for members to develop tourist attraction on National Museums.

#### **6. CONCLUSION**

According to the statistical data, that could be recognized Colombo National Museum is the most popular museum among both domestic and international visitors, and there is a lack of visitor arrivals in Regional National Museums other than the Colombo National Museum. However, there are potentials and resources to promote all the National Museums as attractive tourist destinations among domestic and international visitors through forming promotional network within those museums, based on Colombo National Museum. Furthermore, increasing visitor arrivals, and increasing tourist attractions on Regional National Museums are benefitted to develop the social-economic aspects of host community, and increase the government revenue. Hence, developing museums related to Department of National Museums in Sri Lanka as tourist attractions; could be considered as a significant and appropriate approach for balance the financial issues in museums while promoting the tourism industry of Sri Lanka.

**7. TABLES**

Museums	Foreign Tickets		Local Tickets	
	No. of Foreign Tourists	Revenue (in Rs.)	No. of Domestic Tourists	Revenue (in Rs.)
Colombo National Museum	55,259	43,229,000	215,155	6,779,250
Natural History Museum	5,447	3,982,700	64,994	1,781,790
Kandy National Museum	1,955	1,105,300	13,451	253,335
Ratnapura National Museum	60	17,900	20,326	221,460
Galle National Museum (Closed due to Renovations)	0	0	0	0
Anuradhapura Folk Museum	149	44,400	9,715	128,820
Dutch Museum	1,605	796,700	1,956	36,400
Galle Maritime Museum	2,942	834,300	45,196	453,965
Independence Memorial Museum	648	179,100	25,659	196,110
Hambanthota National Museum	42	21,000	1,218	20,415
<b>Total</b>	<b>68,107</b>	<b>50,210,400</b>	<b>397,670</b>	<b>9,871,545</b>

**Table No.01**  
Statistical data about the international and domestic tourists who visited the National Museums in Sri Lanka during the year of 2017 and the revenue (Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, 2017)

Museums	No. of Foreign Tourists			
	2014	2015	2016	2017
Colombo National Museum	42,756	41,116	46,643	55,259
Natural History Museum	899	2,403	5,303	5,447
Kandy National Museum	2,723	0 (Closed due to Renovations)	0 (Closed due to Renovations)	1,955
Ratnapura National Museum	107	140	135	60
Galle National Museum	4,067	4,958	174	0 (Closed due to Renovations)
Anuradhapura Folk Museum	120	180	169	149
Dutch Museum	2,477	3,302	4,090	1,605
Galle Maritime Museum	3,787	4,142	2,925	2,942
Independence Memorial Museum	668	488	501	648
Hambanthota National Museum	-	18	42	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,604</b>	<b>56,747</b>	<b>59,982</b>	<b>68,107</b>

**Table No.02**  
Statistical data about the international tourists who visited the National Museums in Sri Lanka during the years of 2014 -2017 (Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017)

Museums	No. of Domestic Tourists			
	2014	2015	2016	2017
Colombo National Museum	207,577	162,287	166,092	215,155
Natural History Museum	59,505	44,156	64,887	64,994
Kandy National Museum	19,387	0 (Closed due to Renovations)	0 (Closed due to Renovation)	13,451
Ratnapura National Museum	19,054	22,269	28,327	20,326
Galle National Museum	29,109	26,972	1,059	0 (Closed due to Renovation)
Anuradhapura Folk Museum	4,649	5,783	7,305	9,715
Dutch Museum	5,062	5,367	5,510	1,956
Galle Maritime Museum	39,896	37,191	40,780	45,196
Independence Memorial Museum	29,336	24,031	26,607	25,659
Hambanthota National Museum	-	1,853	1,987	1,218
Total	413,575	329,909	342,554	397,670

**Table No.03**

Statistical data about the domestic tourists who visited the National Museums in Sri Lanka during the years of 2014 -2017

(Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017)

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