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Further decrease in poverty level

In keeping with the trend of development in the country, the average income levels in nine districts of six provinces exceeded the national poverty line of Rs 3,249 of December 2010.

The national poverty line was Rs 3,072 in May, Rs 3,098 in June, Rs 3,097 in July, Rs 3,111 in August, Rs 3,141 in September, Rs 3,178 in October, Rs 3,213 in November and Rs 3,249

National poverty line

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- December - Rs 3,249

in December 2010 showing an increase in the poverty line at national level.

According to the Department of Census and Statistics, the poverty line at national level is the minimum expenditure per person per month to fulfill basic needs.

Colombo, Kalutara and Gampaha districts in the Western Province rank highest above the poverty line with personal expenditures of Rs 3,620, Rs 3,442 and Rs 3,530 respectively.

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Personal expenditures in the other districts above the poverty level are: Kandy (Rs 3,329), Nuwara Eliya (Rs 3,481), Galle (Rs 3,341), Puttalam (Rs 3,270), Badulla (Rs 3,325) and Kegalle (Rs 3,327).

Poverty levels in Matale (Rs 3,217), Matara (Rs 3,184), Hambantota (Rs 3,131), Kurunegala (Rs 3,173), Anuradhapura (Rs 3,080), Polonnaruwa (Rs 3,208), Moneragala (Rs 3,077) and

Rathnapura (Rs 3,241) rank just below the poverty line although there is an increase in the poverty line in all these districts since the previous month of November.

The poverty line at national level rose rapidly since the 2002 level of Rs 1,423. It was Rs 2,845 in 2008, Rs 2,942 in 2009.

These figures do not cover the Northern and Eastern Provinces. *PRIU*

