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A Tribute

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'Of little gain having a hundred sons of lesser calibre
Yet one son of character and wisdom reaps great honour
Darkness in the world is dispelled by just one full moon
Many clusters of stars cannot similarly dispel such darkness'*

This verse from Subhasithaya naturally comes into our mind
When reflecting on the life and achievements of Dr Kulasinghe
He was surely the full moon that illuminated the technical skies
Through pioneering efforts and dedicated service over six decades

Case bore piling technique with its distinctive advantages
Creative methods to be used in construction of concrete shells
Concrete roads as an alternative to roads full of potholes
Techniques to save energy and solve the solid waste problems

To reduce cost of houses he perfected many a technique
To save trees and forests he invented concrete solutions
To lift heavy loads to the sky he used simple devices
To save fuel and foreign exchange he turned on gasfires

Big or small every problem had an innovative solution
At the feet of Dr Kulasinghe all problems simply humbled
Thinking out of the box and applying theory fundamental
He inspired us all with solutions simple and practical

Ask any ordinary person to name a Sri Lankan engineer
Nine from ten would mention the name 'Dr Kulasinghe'
His work was followed by ordinary men and women
And he was an immense inspiration to many a generation

A small made man but of enormous professional stature
Carried an aura of professional dignity and authenticity
Integrity, punctuality, sincerity, creativity and ingenuity
An engineer, innovator, inventor, above all a man of great honour

'One person in the world shall be adept at one thing
A different person at yet another thing

Shall an immense wind or a simmering summer
Not course a ship on land nor a chariot on the ocean'*

This notion Dr Kulasinghe readily disproved
He was adept at a whole range of different things
He challenged the theory and changed the prevailing practice
He was always a source of fatherly professional advice

'Can Do' attitude was his trademark and foundation
No problem was big enough to dent his powerful resolution
Perfection perhaps was his lifelong compulsion
Service to the Nation was his ambition and devotion

He was not afraid to try novel and pioneering ways
He had the capacity to absorb resulting failure or fame
This Nation gained perhaps only half his potential contribution
Though he never turned down a call for a duty to the Nation!

With concrete technology his name is firmly cemented
With the pre-stressing techniques his glory is embedded
In generations of engineers and technicians his wealth is stored
In many of his creations his philosophy loudly echoed

Harbour Chaithyaya, please signal the ships sailing by
Kalutara Chaithyaya, please tell the devotees stopping by
Kotmale Seya, please inform the people in the terrain hilly
That our dear Dr Kulasinghe has just passed away

Reservoirs on Mahaweli, send a gush of water through the cascade
Polgolla, quickly divert waters to Ukuwela and send the message
Norton Bridge Dam, please pass the message on to the rushing Kelani
That the only engineer involved in creating all of you has just passed away

The fountain of knowledge that flowed so long free
The sounding board that stood broad to test new ideas
The beacon that guided all in the path of creativity
Sir, your name will be revered by this Nation to eternity!

**Subhasithay*