

Engineering consultancy services take wrong turn

It was only yesterday (24.5.05) that I walked from Devalamulla Junction to Bellanwila Temple, on the Dehiwala-Maharagama Road where widening and improvements to this road is being done. Then I realised how true what Mr. M. Chandrasena had said in his letter, under the above caption on 25.5.05, which stated, "When there was no provision in a recent road improvement project designed and supervised by expatriate consultants for the drainage of storm water from the adjoining surroundings, they told the client that the storm water should be sent down to the road!"

This is exactly what is happening in the construction of the Dehiwala-Maharagama Road, from Boralesgamuwa Junction to Ambalama Junction. The side drains (storm water drains), have been constructed using concrete well over two feet above the existing road platform and the rain water cannot be drained into the side drains. In order to overcome this error on the part of the designers, they have decided to raise the road platform by filling to get the required com-

bre. Common sense tells me that this wasteful expenditure could have been avoided, if the existing drains were deepened and the road surface sloped towards the side drains to get the required shape. The other problem is that land owners - who all these years drained the water from their compounds - find that water gets stagnated in their own compounds. I have seen in some places where land owners have broken the newly constructed concrete drains.

It would be very much appreciated if Mr. M. Chandrasena could spare some time from his busy schedule, to inspect this road, and advise the authorities to stop further wasteful expenditure. Perhaps the Road Development Authority may have attended 'Tuition Classes' of these expatriate consultants in designing this road. Or, could the Institute of Engineers inspect and advise.

Finally, I plead that I be excused for my ignorance, as there may be engineering and technical reasons for this design.

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