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S. H. C. de Silva

The news of the sudden passing away of my friend caused me shock beyond belief and untold grief as his death was totally unexpected, for he was enjoying good health with no known ailment. He had as was his wont gone for his daily early morning swim to Otters' where unbelievably he was drowned in the pool. How this occurred cannot be understood or imagined as SHC was a good swimmer.

His death has left a deep void among his family and relatives and among the large number of his friends and colleagues in Sri Lanka and abroad.

SHC received his primary and secondary education at Mahinda College, Galle and Ananda College, Colombo respectively where he excelled in his studies and gained admission to the Science Faculty of the University of Ceylon in 1948. After completing the first year at the University he opted to go to the UK to pursue Engineering studies where he successfully completed his Bachelor's degree in Engineering at the University of London. He continued his studies

and was awarded a post-graduate Diploma in Hydraulic Engineering. On his return to Sri Lanka he joined the Irrigation Department (ID) where he performed his duties with commitment, dedication and devotion. He never acted against his conscience. He was an exemplary public servant. He was sought after by the officers of the ID for his counsel and guidance. He was their mentor and teacher. He retired in 1988 as Additional Director of Irrigation. After retirement he continued to serve as Consultant to the ID for a further period of over three years. Thereafter he was employed as a consultant at "TEAMS" for over 6 years. This was followed as Director Water Resources Board and Director ICTAD respectively for periods of five years and three years up to the end of 2004. Even at the time of his death he was functioning as the chairman of the Lanka Rainwater Harvesting Forum. My heartfelt condolences go to his wife Hema, Son Nilanth and to his daughter who was unable to be present at the funeral. May he attain the bliss of Nibbana.

D. P. W. Karunatileke