

Engineer Manoharadas

Eng. A. S. Manoharadas, Director OM & IM Irrigation Department passed away in Kurunegala on September 8.

He had his secondary education at St. Michael's College Batticaloa and entered the Faculty of Engineering, University of Ceylon Peradeniya in 1965 and passed out in 1969.

He was recruited to the Irrigation Department in 1970 and served in Ampara, Bandarawela, Polonnaruwa, Batticaloa and last in Colombo. He held the positions of Irrigation Engineer, Chief Irrigation Engineer, Deputy Director, Senior Deputy Director and Director.

When we all expected him to become Director General later he chose to leave the world disappointing all of us.

All those who had the pleasure of working with him, both his seniors and juniors developed a friendship with him for a long time. He had specialized in operation, maintenance and irrigation management of major irrigation schemes so much so that he was a walking encyclopaedia on major irrigation schemes.

He travelled the length and breadth of the country attending to the problems of farmers and irrigation officials ensuring supply of irrigation water to paddy. He had a knack of diagnosing difficult problems and arriving at a good solution. He could speak Sinhala fluently and was easily approachable so that the farmers had no difficulty in getting their problems solved.

His success in public life is in no measure due to his beloved spouse Saratha. They were born for each other. It was a long-standing school day love that ended in a happy marriage. If not for Saratha's love, care, devotion and affection Manoharadas could not have expended so much time on official matters.

Their marriage was a Christian-Hindu marriage. Both retained their identity, each respecting and celebrating the festivals of the other.

Their only son Bawan who entered the University later decided to proceed to UK and after graduation with first class honours is presently reading for his Ph.D in the "Centre for Earth and Environmental Science Research" at the Kingston University, UK.

Manoharadas was President of the Tamil Cultural Society of the Irrigation Department for three years. He was president of several social services organisations from time to time.

He had his post graduate training in Japan. He had participated in several International Conferences and brought fame to the Irrigation Department and Sri Lanka. His demise at this juncture leaves a big void in the irrigation hierarchy felt by all the engineers and other staff which cannot be easily replaced.

Only time can heal the sorrow and pain of mind of Saratha and Bawan. We all pray that Manoharadas will rest in peace. May God bless him.

V. Regunathan,
Retired Director

R D & C Irrigation Department.

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