

FROM THE EDITOR.....



Cities, towns and built-up areas are inevitable realities of the modern human society with all their associated vices, only marginally alleviated by fringe benefits such as perceived comfortable living, relaxation presumably in front of a TV and recreation in an enclosed gym, to name a few. On the negative side, large concentrations of present day pampered humans, invariably need colossal amounts of energy, food, other items and facilities and in the process of consumption produce comparable quantities of waste, degradable or otherwise, to be carted away. When natural elements like rain, sometimes in unpredictable intensities, come into the picture, disposal of storm and waste waters become a real challenge without causing public inconvenience, not to mention major disasters.

The metropolitan city of Colombo is no exception. The construction boom during past two decades has produced huge amounts of dwellings, mostly high-rise, and other structures, including roads which have encroached and blocked natural storm and waste water drainage paths, placing the city in a high risk situation for water pollution and flooding. It is the cognizance of this all too real danger that has prompted the Engineers and decision makers of the country to seriously look into possible solutions to address surface and ground water pollution aspects coupled with provisions for swift and efficient drainage under periodic as well as perceivable extreme weather conditions.

One such object targeted solution has been the “Weras Ganga Storm Water Drainage & Environment Improvement Project” which is self explanatory of its intended outcome. While attending to its objective, this project has envisaged the upkeep with aesthetic and hygienic enhancement of the canal system and water retention areas. It is expected that through proper implementation of this ongoing project to successful conclusion, risk of severe flooding of the vulnerable areas can be reduced while giving a new boost to the image of Colombo as a ‘Green City’ which was mooted as early as the imperialist governed period in the early twentieth century.

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