



FROM THE EDITOR.....

I do not think that you will disagree with me when I say our country Sri Lanka as a whole, is blessed with the great life-giving commodity of water. In fact our civilisation as well as heritage is inseparably interwoven with the harnessing and effective utilisation of water. Though the wet zone of the country receives enough and some times more than enough water through perennial rains, the dry zones do not receive adequate amounts of water for the day-to-day consumption of the populace, not to mention agriculture which is the predominant livelihood of the residents. This non-uniform distribution of the water resource has always been the overwhelming bone of contention in our land from the times of ancient kings, to date.

This scenario is undoubtedly behind the legacy of hydraulic civilisation of Sri Lanka where greatness of kings throughout the history is invariably portrayed through engineering interventions they championed to provide good water for the sustenance of people and crops. For centuries it has been our dream to find means to convey water to the dry areas, extracted from the river system radiating to the sea from the central highlands. Though this dream has been realized through older as well as recent projects implemented in other dry areas, due to geographical reasons north central and northern areas have been difficult to be served and were denied the benefits.

It is the Mahaweli development project harnessing the irrigation potential of our longest river that has shown a beacon of hope for the northern regions of the land. Through decades of phased advances, now we have embarked on a crucial phase in the form of "Maha Ela" to convey life giving water ever deeper into the north central region, to be stored in many tanks hitherto being fed only by intermittent rains.

It is the challenge facing our Engineers, to one day be able to convey water to the northernmost end of Sri Lanka, thus making 'River for Jaffna' a reality.

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