

Lion Diresh begins DG career with Rs. 40 m. service project

A grant to government from SL/JFA

Lion Diresh Hettiarachchi MJF, JP who was elected as the new District Governor, District 306 C1 for the year 2008/2009 with a massive 99.8 affirmative votes at the 3rd Annual District Convention held at the BMICH, was accorded a rousing welcome when he and his First Lady, Chandima, were conducted to the venue by Lions of District 306 C1.



Governor elect, Lion Diresh Hettiarachchi will take his oaths as District Governor, 306 C-1 at the International Convention to be held in Bangkok, Thailand from June 23-27.

Governor Diresh said that he will begin his Lionistic career as District Governor with a mega project by donating an Ambulance and Fire Engine valued at Rs. 40 million to the Sri Lanka Army.

At the request of Lion Diresh, President Sri Lanka/Japan Friendship Association Dr. Lal Thilakarathne, now resident in Japan, had initiated this donation. "We have planned

International President Mahendra Amarasinghe inducts Lion Diresh Hettiarachchi MJF JP as District Governor 306 C-1

loads of service projects which will be given high priority during my tenure as District Governor 306 C-1, for 2008/2009, Lion Diresh said.

"My theme for 2008/2009 is "Serve with Love and Affection" - a better tomorrow. This scheme covers many areas, GD Diresh explained. "Neth Padami" - "Vision for all". Under this

scheme, free cataract operations will be offered to the needy and over 25,000 spectacles will be distributed. "Semata Suwaya" - "Health for All". Under this programme, special attention will be paid to the prevention of Diabetes, HIV Aids awareness, prevention of Malaria and Dengue and other common diseases. Under the "Drug Abuse"

program, the district will conduct Multi Service Health Camps to provide health services, medicines free, prescribed by doctors. "Gemi Diriya" - Village Awakening. Under this scheme DG Lion Diresh will provide shelter to the living for the underprivileged. "Caring for Elders" - women and Youth Care" To eradicate extreme poverty

and hunger, for the poor whose income is less than Rs. 108 (one US Dollar) per day.

With the fullest cooperation of Lions of my district, all my service projects will receive top priority during my tenure as District Governor, 2008/2009 Lion Diresh Hettiarachchi said.



Mahinda Rajapaksa Rotary Friendship Model School, built at a cost of Rs. 6.1m was commissioned at Hambantota by Agriculture, Ports and Aviation Minister, Chamal Rajapaksa and SPC Chief Minister Shan Wijeyalal de Silva. The Ministers Chamal Rajapaksa and Wijeyalal de Silva commissioning the school. Pic. D.C. de Silva, Kahawa special correspondent



Spectacles were distributed among journalists with the contribution of Lion Mahendra Kashyapa de Silva under the guidance of Ven. Arama Dhammatilake Nayaka Thera, at the Bodhimalu Vihara, Gotatuwa. Lion de Silva presents a pair of spectacles to poet Ajith. Ven. Arama Dhammatilake looks on. Picture by Saman Sri Wedage

Toastmaster Balraj brings honour to Sri Lanka

Advanced Toastmaster Arunasalam Balraj was elected unanimously as the District Governor District 82 at the District Conference held at the Nimhans auditorium in Bangalore from May 16-18.

He was installed as Governor by the International Director for Toastmasters DTM. Mohammed Murad. The next year's 2009 conference will be held in Sri Lanka from May 22-24 2009 which will attract members from all nine divisions along with the new members joining the movement.

A group of dedicated people who were keen to promote the skills that the Toastmasters program offers, established the Colombo Toastmasters Club 25 years ago. Until 2002 this was the only Toastmasters Club in the country. Under the leadership of Arunasalam Balraj as the Chairman of the Territorial Council of South Asia



Toastmaster Balraj (left) being greeted by the first Divisional Governor and Founder member, and 'Able Toastmaster' award winner TM Haleem Ghonse. Pic. Beverley Jansz

Toastmasters was focused on spreading the wings of Toastmasters in Sri Lanka. Currently it has grown to 25 clubs in different parts of the Island, with a total membership of almost a thousand members. Fourteen more clubs are to be added in the

next couple of months to the fold in Sri Lanka.

The district operation covers the whole of India and Sri Lanka.

As the District Governor Toastmaster Balraj will direct nine Divisional Governors and 32 Area Govern-

ors to administer the District. These Divisions and Area Leaders are from the cities of Delhi, Kolkatha, Chandigar, Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai, Mangalore, Trivandrum in India and Colombo, Kandy, Kurunegala, Panadura, Galle, Puttalam in Sri Lanka.

"We started with three divisions at Ovation 2006 in Colombo. We expanded to five divisions at Ovation 2007 in Delhi. Now, we will be expanding to nine divisions.

This growth, of three hundred percent in two years needs to be celebrated, but it is only the beginning of what we can achieve and as I said earlier, to embrace change and empower people, Toastmasters have a daunting, yet achievable, task ahead of us.

This growth is both, in India and Sri Lanka, the new District Governor, District 82, Toastmaster Balraj said.

Lion Lester Aponso adjudged "Most outstanding Governor"

District Governor, 306A1 Lion Gordon Lester Aponso was adjudged the "Most outstanding Governor of the year" at a colourful 306 District Convention held at the BMICH which was attended by a host of VIPs, distinguished guests, Lions and Lion Ladies.

Lion Aponso's District 306A1, was adjudged as the "Most outstanding District" among six districts in Sri Lanka for their outstanding contribution to humanity.

District Governor Lion Lester Aponso and Lions of his district 306A1 took away no less than seventeen awards for outstanding performances during 2007/2008. Governor Aponso was presented the prestigious "Challenge to Change" award by Interna-



District Governor 306A1, Lion Lester Aponso (second from left) and his First Lady Lion Chrisma receive the prestigious "Challenge to Change" award from International President, Lion Mahendra Amarasinghe. At extreme right is 306 District Chairman, Lion Sarath de Fonseka. Pic. Beverley Jansz

tional President Lion Mahendra Amarasinghe. Lion Lester Aponso is one of Sri Lanka's most dedicat-

ed Lions and the receipt of no less than seventeen awards at the Lions 306 District Convention is a unique

and most memorable feature in District Governor 306A1 Lion Lester Aponso's Lionistic career.

Rs. 4 m. water project by Rotary Club of Kandy

A unique project was recently commissioned by the Rotary Club of Kandy partnered by the Rotary Club of Heemstede - Bennebroek, Rotary District 1580 and Oxfam NOVIB, all in the Netherlands, and Rotary Foundation in providing clean drinking water to 21 poor and under-privileged locations at a total project budget of Rs. 4 million.

Tube wells, water tanks with distribution pipes, large capacity pumps and a chlorinator were provided at these 21 locations in the areas of Kandy, Panduwassuwaru, Nuwara Eliya, Geliyoia, Meewaladeniya, Kapuliyadde, Akurana, Wennappuwa, Nugawela, Kirivanaketiya, Kundsale, Medagama, Wariyapola, Polgahawela and Bandarawela. The Kandy Municipal Council also benefited by way of two high capacity water pumps at a cost of Rs. 1.1 million which now supply water to about 1,000 families. A Chlorinator at a cost of Rs. 300,000 has improved the quality of drinking water in the entire Kandy Municipal Water Supply System. The Rotary Clubs of Nuwara Eliya, Nikaweratiya, Panduwassuwaru, Bandarawela, Wennappuwa, Wariyapola and Polgahawela worked together



Inauguration of the drinking water project (from left) I. Abdeen (Member - KMC), Palitha Abeykoon (Water Works Engineer), Rotarians of Kandy Club - Shamil Peiris (Vice President, M.T.A. Zain (President), John Baskeran (Sgt at Arms) Mohan Rasiah (Treasurer)

with the Rotary Club of Kandy in implementing the individual Water Projects in their respective areas.

"We were indeed delighted to have the opportunity of harnessing the potential of the world wide Rotary Movement including The Rotary Foundation, Sri Lankan Rotary clubs and the Kandy Municipal Council in providing one of the most vital requirements for life - clean water to a number of locations in the Central part of the country. This project benefited over 26000 families, 1300 individuals and 6400 school children and the Rotary Club of Kandy is very pleased with its success. We are therefore looking at similar opportu-



Schoolchildren of Wariyapola Central College enjoying the newly commissioned water system.

nities of repeating this humanitarian programme with other Rotary clubs, NGO's and Rotary Foundation in the future too through

our Water - Basic to life Programme" says Rotarian Shamil Peiris Vice President and Project Initiator of the Rotary Club of Kandy.



Lion Lionel Kuruppu, JP of the Lions Club of Wadduwa won several awards at the District Convention held at the BMICH. Here Lion Kuruppu (left) receives the "Most Outstanding District Chairperson" award from International President, Mahendra Amarasinghe. W.M.N.V. Wijenayake, Wadduwa Roving Correspondent



A shramadana programme was held at Akbar Lane, Gunasinghapura, Colombo recently. It was organised by Lions Club Colombo, Serendib District 306C1 in collaboration with Colombo Municipal Councillor C.M.Y. Izzadeen. Here Deputy Mayor of Colombo A.K.M.S. Rajendran, Municipal Councillor Izzadeen, Lions Club President Lion Lady Malini Senanayake, Vice President Lion Mohamed Saleem, Directors Lion Lady Shajwani and Lion Lady Jayanthi at the shramadana. Picture by Ruzaik Farook, Colpetty correspondent



Lion Layani Goonewardhna, President, Lions Club of Colombo Mid City was presented the "Lions Clubs International Public Relations Idea" award at the Multiple District 306 Sri Lanka Convention held at the BMICH last week. Here Lion Layani receives her award from International President, Lion Mahendra Amarasinghe. Looking on is Multiple Council District 306 Chairman, Lion Sarath de Fonseka.



Lion Vindana Haputhanthri, MJF (extreme left) of the Lions Club of Wijerama was presented the "International Flag Set" by winning the award for the most outstanding contribution for membership development. The award is being presented by International President, Mahendra Amarasinghe (centre) and Lion Sarath de Fonseka, Chairman, Multiple District 306, at the Multiple District 306 Convention held at the BMICH.

Juggle (Es Banduma) Lions Fundraiser on Sunday at Elphinstone

Lions Club of Colombo (Host) will stage Wilson Gunaratne's latest creation, "Juggle" (Es Banduma) tomorrow,

Sunday June 8 at the Elphinstone Theatre, at 6.30 p.m. to raise funds for essential community services. The story rotates

around a film studio, namely "Janatha Studio" (People's Studio) trying to produce a film with a National Concept.

The cast includes Wilson Gunaratne, Ramani Fonseka, Petra Schantz (from Germany) Gamini Hettiarachchi, Susil

Perera, Premaratne Tennakoon, G. Chandrathilaka, Wijeratne Naullage, Krishan Widuranga and Ranmini Ketagoda, music

by Osanda Gunaratne. Tickets would be available at the Elphinstone Theatre gate tomorrow Sunday June 8 from 12 noon.

"All proceeds will go for very essential community work and we appeal not only to Lions but the general public to assist us by

participating at this worthy cause." President, Lions Club of Colombo (Host) Lion Dr. Miraz Mukhtar said.

