

## Col. Harindran 80th Rotary President

**I** stand before you this evening as the 80th President of the Rotary Club of Colombo, the oldest, the largest, and we like to think, one of the most prestigious Rotary Clubs in the Island. Indeed, we are responsible for bringing the very concept of Rotary to Sri Lanka, or Ceylon, as it was then called, and all the other Rotary Clubs in this District were constituted either directly or indirectly by the Rotary Club of Colombo.

In fact, I believe that we are the third oldest Rotary Club in the entire Asia-Pacific Region, the two older clubs being the Rotary Club of Metro-Manila, and the Rotary Club of Kolkata, so that we can truly say that we have the proud heritage of having served the community for 79 long years.

These sentiments were expressed by Col. R. Harindran when he was installed as the 80th President of the Rotary Club of Colombo at Trans Asia Hotel last week.

Some of the healthcare institutions which we have been responsible for establishing are the Sri Lanka Cancer Society, the Ceylon



The new President of the Rotary Club of Colombo, Col. R. Harindran with outgoing President, Nirmalee Samarasinghe.

National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, and the Sri Lanka Anti-Narcotic Association.

More recently, along with other Rotary Clubs, we were engaged in inoculating little children against Polio. Our club was allotted the district of Anuradhapura, and I can well remember going to the rural hospitals in the Anuradhapura area for this purpose. The women in the neighbourhood of each of these hospitals had been requested to bring their babies there, and it gave me a feeling of achievement and fulfilment when the oral vaccine was administered to these kids, knowing that

they would never ever suffer from that dreaded disease of Polio, Col. Harindran said.

Some of the ongoing projects which we are prosecuting are the establishment of the National Cancer Prevention Centre, the Kuda Kusum Orphanage Project, then there is another Orphanage Project in Batticaloa in the pipe line, and the Ethnic Harmony Project whereby we bring bus loads of children from Yakalam or some such town in the Eastern Province, give them a whole of a time in Colombo, and send them back very happy to their homes. The kids really love these expeditions

# Lion Diresh Hettiarachchi Youngest DG steals the show

**Beverly Jansz**

**D**eshabandu Lion Diresh Hettiarachchi MJP took his oaths as Sri Lanka's youngest District Governor, District 306C-1, before International President, Sri Lanka last week, was accorded a warm welcome at the Bandaranaikie Inter-

national Airport by key officials of District 306C1, and Lions and Lion Ladies after which he and his family were taken to Colombo in a colourful procession.

Speaking to the *Daily News*, Deshabandu Lion Hettiarachchi said that one week's stay at Bangkok consisted of a comprehen-

sive training program for District Governors from around the world on leadership training and team work.

Governors' Lion Ladies too were given a one week training on leadership. The training took place in Pattaya, Thailand, while the International Convention was held at Imperial Convention Centre, Bangkok.

Deshabandu Lion Hettiarachchi began his Lionist year 2008/2009 with a Holy Mass at Infant Jesus Church, Colombo 2, to invoke blessings on him and his family.

Today DG Hettiarachchi will participate in a Bodhi Pooja at Polonnaruwa Raja Maha Viharaya. Next week he will attend a religious ceremony at Dalada Maligawa, which has been organised by Lions of his



Deshabandu Lion Diresh Hettiarachchi and First Lady Chandima receiving a token of remembrance from the senior official of the host country, at the 91st International Convention in Bangkok.



Deshabandu Hettiarachchi with his family in Bangkok, immediately after taking oaths as Sri Lanka's youngest District Governor.

## New DG Lion Nimal Rajapakse felicitated

**'With love look to the Needy'**

**L**ion Nimal Rajapakse, MJP, who took oaths as District Governor, 306B1, before Lions International President Albert F. Brandel at the International Convention held in Bangkok last week, was given a rousing welcome at a felicitation ceremony held at Taj Airport Garden Hotel, Seedua on Tuesday.

The ceremony was preceded by a Thanksgiving Mass at St. Peter's Church, Negombo.

Governor Rajapakse and First Lady Geetha were conducted in a colourful procession to the venue of the ceremony at Taj Airport Garden Hotel, amidst the beats of drums.

The ceremony was organised by Lions Club of Negombo Host. To mark the occasion, Lions Clubs in District 306 B1, carried out a number of service projects distributing wheelchairs to the needy cash, textbooks and dry goods to the underprivileged. Explaining the four

flames of his theme "With love-look to the Needy" Governor Nimal said "As my logo suggests, what better way to start the year than with a loving heart encircled by "wings of peace" releasing flames of energy under my motto "We serve," directed especially to the needy."

"The four flames symbolise my four point programme, namely, Poverty alleviation and village adoption, Youth Empowerment and Outreach, Diabetic Awareness and prevention and sight conservation and work with the blind, DG Rajapakse explained.

As Lions you are well aware that these priorities disturb the world, very particularly our region. I would like to stress the dire need to arrest the scourge of poverty through village adoption. I earnestly urge Lions Clubs to peg your thoughts on this matter and make a start, statistics that will impel you to action is that the incidence of poverty



District Governor 306 B1, Lion Nimal Rajapakse and First Lady, Geetha being conducted in procession to the venue of the ceremony. Pictures by Beverly Jansz



Donation of a solar powered electric three-wheeler to a disabled person, sponsored by Lion Deeptha Appuhamy, Region Chairman Lions Club of Madampe.



From left: PDG Tissa Bandaranyake, PDG Muni Kundenmal, Secretary, Rotary Club of Colombo, Raju Mathew, Chief Guest, Trustee Rotary International and Director Elect of Rotary International and PDG, K.R. Ravindran, outgoing President, Nirmalee Samarasinghe and new President, Col. R. Harindran. Pictures by Beverly Jansz

## Warm welcome for new DG 306A1 - Lion Rekogama

The new District Governor for District 306A1, Lion Dr. Senarath Rekogama and his First Lady Menaka were accorded a warm welcome when they returned from Bangkok after attending the 91st International Convention.

Distinguished guests, Lions from his home club, Kothalawalapura Lions Club and key officials from District 306A1 were present to greet DG Dr. Rekogama and First Lady Menaka.

On July 1, which is the first day of the Lionistic calendar, a multi religious and felicitation ceremony was held at Panadura Galagoda Sri Maha Viharaya. Chief Incumbent Potthupitiya Pagnasekera Thera invoked blessings on District Governor, Dr. Rekogama and his family.

A number of meaningful service projects were carried out to mark the appointment of Lion Dr. Rekogama as District Governor 306A1. Speaking on the occasion, DG Dr. Rekogama thanked

all Lions who supported him on his mission, and invited them to be members of his 'Wonder Team' to create miracles through serving the needy.



DG Dr. Rekogama and First Lady Menaka being conducted to the venue.



DG Dr. Rekogama presenting spectacles to the needy, Deputy Cabinet Treasurer, Lion Upali Jayawardena looks on. Pix Pathiru Gunaseena

## Outstanding Service Awards District 306C2



Lion Lady of the year awarded to Lion Lady Nimali Yapa of L/C Thalapathipitiya by First Lady Lion Lalani Baddevithana & Chief Guest Dr. Tae Sup-Lee.



The Most Popular Lion Lady awarded to Lady Lion Ramani Fernando of L/C Pannipitiya Metro by District Governor, First Lady Lion Lalani Baddevithana & Chief Guest Dr. Tae Sup-Lee.

**D**istrict 306C2 ended the Lionistic Year 2007/2008 on 30th June, but not before due recognition after evaluating the performance of outstanding Lions Clubs and leadership excellence of Lions in the largest and the most vibrant District in Sri Lanka.

Awards were presented by District Governor Dr. Priyanka Baddevithana to some very special clubs and Lions who made his vision for the dawn of a golden era come true.

The awards of excellence were presented by the Chief Guest, Past International President Dr. Tae Sup-Lee, District Governor Dr. Priyanka and First Lady Lalani Baddevithana and International Director Asoka de Z. Gunasekera.

## Lion Jeyarajan - New District Governor 306B2



The Lions International Convention was held in Bangkok, Thailand last week, where Lions District Governors from around the world took their oaths, at a ceremony attended by a distinguished gathering. Lion P. Jeyarajan was installed as District Governor 306B2 for 2008/2009 by International President Albert F. Brandel of USA. Here Lion Jeyarajan and first lady Shamala with International President and his Lion Lady Dr. Maurien Murphy.

Lion Chula de Silva, District Chairman, Media Publicity and Secretary, Lions Club of Mulleriyawa New Town receives the gold award for the Best Secretary from International President, Lion Mahendra Amarasinguriya.

## Rotary aids Solid Waste Management Project

**R**otary Club of Matala handed over Rs. 2.1 million worth of equipments to the Solid Waste Management Project of Municipal Council Matala at a ceremony held at Matala under the distinguished participation of Rohana Dissanayake said, Matala is a historical city and today's event is also a historical one. Rotary Club and Mayor of Matala Mohamed Hilmy Careem.

The project consists of a Massey Ferguson Tractor, Trailer and One Hundred Compost Bins.

The project was financed by the Rotary Foundation with the support and assistance from Rotary Club of Matala and the Rotary Clubs

in the United Kingdom - Stockport, Lampligher, Bredbury & Romiley, Didsbury, Stockport, Bramhall & Woodford.

Addressing the gathering Minister of Urban Development Rohana Dissanayake said, Matala is a historical city and today's event is also a historical one. Rotary Club and Mayor of Matala Mohamed Hilmy Careem. The project consists of a Massey Ferguson Tractor, Trailer and One Hundred Compost Bins. It is the duty of the Municipality to make maximum use out of these equipments and keep the tax payers happy and satisfied.