

Treat the visually impaired as stakeholders of development - President

Text & Pix. Beverley Jansz

Treat the visually impaired, hearing impaired and mentally disabled as respectable citizens of the country. It is because of that the government has created the necessary environment to provide equal opportunity to the visually-impaired to enable them to become state-holders of the country's development, said President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

The President expressed these sentiments in a message sent to the White Cane Day celebrations jointly organised by the Lions International District 306A2 and the Colombo Walkers Health Club.

As provided for in the Mahinda Chintana, all privileges enjoyed by others,

have been extended to the disabled as well as they too are the sons of Mother Lanka, the President says. The multi service programme organised by the Sri Lanka Council of the Blind, jointly with the Lions International District 306A2 and the Colombo Walkers Health Club, add to the pride of the visually impaired. I wish the ceremony to mark the White Cane Day be a total success," the President said.

The service project was held at the Public Library Auditorium, and was attended by a large number of visually impaired men women and children, who were presented cash and other gifts.

Speaking on 'Sharing experience on women and blind in general visually-impaired Kamala Xavier recalled a sad treatment she

received at a hospital when she was admitted for an operation. When the specialist doctor who was to perform the operation noticed that she was blind, he told a junior lady doctor "You take the Blind Woman". The specialist had not known that although blind, I was a graduate teacher in a government school and my husband who was hail and hearty too

was a graduate teacher in a government school. After the operation I noticed that I was bleeding profusely. That night the junior doctor who performed the operation had telephoned the ward nurse saying that she was worried as I had been bleeding profusely. By a stroke of luck I was cured, said Kamala Xavier.

Chief guest, Lion International District Governor, 306A2, S.K. Karunasekera, Secretary, Ministry of Labour Relations and Manpower Resources Mahinda Madihawewa, President, Colombo Walkers Health Club Lion Ashrooff Hussain

Chief guest, DG 306A2, S.K. Karunasekera being welcomed on arrival. Looking on are Lion Ashrooff Hussain, Secretary SLCB, S.L. Hettiarachchi and Regional Coordinator, District 306A2, Lion S. Sekar.

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Blind musicians entertaining the audience.



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Lion Ashrooff Hussain (left) and Lion S. Sekar receive awards for services rendered to the blind, from DG 306A2, Lion S.K. Karunasekera.

Lions District 306 C2 celebrates Universal Children's Day

Lions International District 306 C2 celebrated the Universal Children's Day and Elders day on October 4 at a Joint Project chaired by Lady Lion Sherine Ramanayake of the Lions Club of Kalawana District Chairperson for women empowerment and child welfare. A colourful celebration took place at the Wilfred Senanayake Esplanade - Ratnapura attended by over 1,000 little children and elders. All Lions clubs in Region 4, Lions clubs Ratnapura, Ratnapura new Century Kiriella, Kalawana, Eheliyagoda, Nivittigala participated actively at this ceremony where the children and elders were provided with food, toys, clothes savings books with initial deposit of Rs. 200 per child, musical items and many other items. A special feature was the Lions Junior Chamber. The Leo Clubs of Ratnapura and Kalawana actively joined these little children. On this occasion the chief guest was Lion Buddhendra Z. Gunasekera, District Governor of District 306 C2 and the International Director Asoka de Z. Gunasekera.



Children and elders at the Wilfred Senanayake Esplanade taking part in the celebrations.



Lions of District 306 C2 distributing gifts to the little ones.

On the same day a similar project was carried out by the district which project was chaired and organised by Lady Lion Lalani Fernando, who functions in the district cabinet as the Head of Caring for Elders. Differently abled persons and street children. She was assisted by Lady Lion Enoaka de Silva, Sarojini Seneviratne and the members of the Lion ladies committee.

The special feature of the project that took place at the Singathi Uyana which was

was that the children who were treated with food provided by the hotels in Colombo, Colombo Hilltop, Trans Asia, Water's Edge and Galadari. Children were also provided with the opportunity to enjoy at the Sabhuta Uyana which was

provided exclusive to them with the kind courtesy of the Colombo Municipal Council.

Over 500 children from children's homes in and around Colombo were brought in by the Lions Clubs.

The third project was carried out at the S. de S. Jayasinghe park, Dehiwela organised by the vice Governor of the District Nimal Bulathsinhala where over 1,000 were provided with games, toys and an opportunity to display their talent in

Lions mega service project

A joint mega service project of Mabole and Wattala City Lions Clubs was held at the Balagala church premises



Vice District Governor District 306B1 Lion Lakshman Wijesinghe opens the Eye Clinic (Top) and President Lions Club of Wattala City Dinesh Perera presents a dry ration with President Lions Club of Mabole Sulari Cabraal. Pic. by Nimal Perera, Wattala group corr.



Toastmasters Area 3 contests on a grand scale

Toastmasters Area 3 Humorous and Evaluation contests were held very successfully at the University of Moratuwa. Five contestants participated at each contest. Two from UOM, two from Serendib and one from Panadura.

The Chief Judge of the contests were MZ Saleem, Divisional Governor District H and all the other judges were trained judges.

Humorous Contest: First Place: Dayan Fernando - Serendib Toastmasters, Second Place: Palitha Dassanayaka - University of Moratuwa Toastmasters, Third Place: Susantha Hewa - University of Moratuwa Toastmasters.

Evaluation Contest: First Place: Dayan Fernando - Serendib Toastmasters, Second Place: Madura Elperuma - Panadura Toastmasters, Third Place: Sandun Liyanapathirana - Serendib Toastmasters.

Humour Contest: Madura Elperuma - Panadura Toastmasters

Evaluation Contest: Madura Elperuma - Panadura Toastmasters

The other participants of the contests are as follows for preparation of certificates for participation.

Humour Contest: Madura Elperuma - Panadura Toastmasters, Sandun Liyanapathirana - Serendib Toastmasters.

Evaluation Contest: Madura Elperuma - Panadura Toastmasters

Kandy Rotaract Club and NCT conduct Thalassaemia Art Exhibition

Rotaract Club of Kandy together with National Center for Thalassaemia Karunegala will present Thalassaemia Children's Art Exhibition on Saturday 25th October.

In Sri Lanka currently over 700 patients are being treated at National Thalassaemia Center in Kurunegala and requires over 650 pints of blood and Rs.7.5 Million worth Desferrioxamine monthly for their treatment. The management of Thalassaemia is mainly based on Regular blood transfusion.

Infusion of a drug (Desferrioxamine) to reduce the iron overload in the body.

The Rotaract club of Kandy has been actively involved from the year 2003 by conducting fund raisers and day-outs from Thalassaemia patients from Kandy's General Hospital, Peradeniya Teaching Hos-

pital and National Thalassaemia Center-Kurunegala.

On a different note this year the Rotaract Club of Kandy together with National Thalassaemia Center has organised an Art exhibition by children with Thalassaemia named "Painted Dream" so the world can see the amazing talents of these children.

While helping to reduce the psychosocial impact on these children as patients,

this event will also act as a much needed awareness raising campaign, an effort by the Rotaractors to help eradicate Thalassaemia from Sri Lanka.

Proposed dates - 24th and 25th of October 2008 At - E.L.Senanayake Children's Library Hall From - 9.00 am to 6.30 pm On 25th Saturday the children from Kurunegala Hospital will visit the exhibition and there will be a prize distribution ceremony along with a pre-

sentation by doctors and the sponsors.

All funds raised from the project will be used to open up a savings account in a selected financial institution, where the fund will be utilized for medicine and other health needs of the Thalassaemia patients under the patronage of the Hospitals represented by the participants of the exhibition.

Under the Rotary International Theme "Make Dreams Real", the Rotaract Club of Kandy "Venture to Dream" with this project under the professional development and community services avenues.

The Rotaract Team comprises President Rtr. Ruwani Fonseka, Secretary Rtr. Dileepa Peiris, Directors - Rtr. Suresh Rambukwella, Ryan Gray, Dilhani Yapa, Chethana Amunugama, Irfan Jaleel and Ramini - Udikumbara and 19 Members.

Leos celebrate World Children's Day at Cancer Hospital

On 2nd October to celebrate World Children's Day, the Leo Club of Wekandara District 306 C1, organised a day of celebration for 135 kids who are under 12 years old at the Cancer Hospital Maharagama. The project was done jointly with the Leo Club of Mahanama College District 306C2 together with Hayleys Group of Companies, Overseas School and Hotel Cinnamon Grand.

Dramas and songs performed by the children was the main attraction at the event. Adding colour was an Art and Crafts Exhibition, and performances by guest artiste Anton Jude, Rebecca Nirmalie and Nadeesha Alahapperuma who entertained everyone present. It was a wonderful project organised by the Leos, just seeing the smiles on 135 kids who are children was alone a great satisfaction stated MP Leo Ricky Simms.

The Main Sponsor Hayleys Group of Companies sponsored the children's costumes and gift packs worth Rs. 300,000. Hotel Cinnamon Grand handed over food packs for patients, guests, parents and staff to the value of Rs. 57,000. Ozaife Lanka Pvt Ltd gave cereal, snacks and chocolates to the kids, guests, par-



ents, staff which amounted to Rs. 34,200. The Lions Club of Battaramulla Inner Circle donated Stationary & art equipment for the 135 kids to the value of Rs. 20,250 and Multi Vitamin Bottles worth Rs. 45,000. The total project cost exceeded Rs. 456,450.

There were more than 150 parents and guests who were present along with 28 Leos from the 2 organising Leo Clubs. Special Guests present at the event were District Governor, District 306C, Deshabandu Lion Dires Hettiarachchi, Cabinet Treasurer, District 306C



Lion Chamindu Abeywickrama, Leo Multiple District President, Multiple District 306 Leo Ricky Simms and PMDF Leo Tiam Roshan. The project was coordinated by Leo Hansika Per-

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