



Dialog



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HNB

Daily News Business takes neglected school to Modern Age



Some highlights of the event captured by Sumanachandra Ariyawansa and Saliya Rupasinghe



The computer and the internet are the gateway to the world, bringing in knowledge, education and entertainment. Computers make the world smaller and turn it into a global village. Sadly this simple luxury had been beyond the reach of the Imbulgoda Junior School in Akuressa.

For some students as well as parents, it had been the first time that they had an opportunity to see and touch a computer. Thus, October 20, was a red letter day for the school when *Daily News Business*, as a part of their corporate social responsibility, set up a computer lab in this school which even lacked a science laboratory.

Chaminda Wanigasekera of Tippola Estate came forward to provide the furniture for the unit, a show piece not only for the school, but also for the entire Akuressa town.

A leading transport company, Lanka Ashok Leyland's Managing Director, Umesh Gautham, responding to an SOS, came forward to provide these computers to the school, while Dialog Axiata provided the much needed

connection and even went a step further to provide them with a CDMA phone that would help them better in an emergency.

CDN Business taking a further step, came forward to fashion a most needed playground for the school.

Sports for this school with just 130 students, had been seasonal, as they had to mark time until the nearby paddy field was harvested to use it as a playground!

Holcim Lanka together with Lanka Orix Leasing Company and Sierra Global, shouldered the financial burden, with the coordination of the students and parents of the area, while Pradeshiya Sabha, member, Isuru Palliyaguru too provided the much needed 'free' labour to complete the playground.

In a bid to provide a few students and teachers better vision, Wickramarachchi Opticians joined in providing spectacles from their Matara branch.

Tharangani, who went a step further, promised to provide more, with an amazing 50% discount.

The Hatton National Bank and Mandara Resort in Weligama

provided compliments to all the teachers and the clergy present at the blessing of the computer lab. While the parents and teachers prepared a 'game style' sumptuous breakfast, Nestle Lanka food nutritional packs were offered to the students.

The *Daily News Business* desk staff led by Chief Editor Lynn Ockersz, were conducted to the venue in a colourful procession, while the students had arranged variety entertainments to add glamour to the event.

Airing his views, the *Daily News* Chief Editor said that the Mahinda Chinthanaya Vision was to take computer literacy to all by 2015 and this CRS initiative would help in this laudable endeavour, adding that more corporates should conduct events of this nature. "There are schools in our rural areas that seem to have been forgotten by both time and the authorities," he said.

"There are scores of youngsters in these seemingly neglected schools who are brimming with talent and capabilities and these students must be allowed to rise, shine and give a good account of themselves.

"There needs to be greater state commitment to these goals, we believe, he concluded. 'It is equality in condition and opportunity which would help in empowering the people and in keeping them above want. If these noble aims are worked towards and achieved, full meaning could be given to the revered phrase, Free Education.'

This is the second time that *Daily News Business* had organized an event of this nature and the newspaper is planning another event which would be a 'world's first', targeting the underprivileged business entities in the North and East in December. This initiative had been put together by the *Daily News Business* desk team, headed by Business Editor Shirajiv Sirimane, staffers Sandra Thalagahagoda, C. P. de Silva, Asha Wickramasekera, Sumanachandra Ariyawansa, Saliya Rupasinghe, Aninda Banduratne, Ramani Kangaraarachchi, Indunil Hewage, Sanjeevi Jayasuriya, Praveen Mendis, Hiran Seneviratne, Champa Perera, Dehini Pathirana, Mohamed Akram and well wishers.