

## FROM THE EDITOR.....

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Once again we are in a position to proudly talk about a project of our own. An Irrigation/hydro Power project in our own country, designed by our own Engineers, managed by our own Engineering organizations, constructed by our own workforce and funded by our own government, indeed places this project on this pedestal.

Being the fourth longest river in Sri Lanka, Daduru Oya, originating in the western slopes of the wet zone hill country has passed through some of the dry plains in the north-west of the island for centuries without bestowing full potential benefits to the inhabitants. The Daduru Oya reservoir project by the Department of Irrigation is another historical step in harnessing the beneficial potential from near a billion cubic meters of water flowing through this river fed by many tributaries at various levels.

Apart from building the potential to irrigate over 11,00 Hectares of rice cultivation in both Yala and Maha seasons, the proposed reservoir would enable potable water supply for an area housing over 50,000 families and generate 1.5 MW of electric power. As further benefits this project is expected to control floods, recharge ground water table and fulfil the baseline requirements for enhancing the infrastructure of the area.

Our island country may not have many of the natural resources valued by the present day economists, such as petroleum, coal or metal ores, but has been blessed with a cartwheel of waterways enriching the peripheries. As our ancestors have done throughout the recorded history, it is our sacred duty to harness the maximum potential of these for the benefit of all the inhabitants. The Daduru Oya project will be a contribution of this generation and especially the Engineers of this generation, to this historical quest.

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