



# NEWS LETTER

February 2025

Issue No.56

**ASSOCIATION OF PAST EMPLOYEES OF SINGER**

112, Havelock Road, Colombo 5.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

### CLEAN SRI LANKA

**CLEAN SRI LANKA**, the “Buzz phrase “in our country these days is catching on. Politics apart, the first thoughts that instantly flitter through our minds when we hear this phrase are clean public toilets, clean roads with no garbage heaps and smoke free vehicles.

Looking up the meaning of CLEAN in various dictionaries, the Oxford Dictionary has two meanings.

1. Free from dirt, stains, radioactivity, pollution, contamination
2. Morally uncontaminated, pure, innocent, neat, clean living

Let's leave No 1 to the CLEAN SRI LANKA TASK FORCE and as good citizens concentrate on No 2.

### WORKPLACE ETIQUETTE

People spend most of their waking hours in their workplaces. Good etiquette in the office will result in more productivity in any organization. Respecting opinions, even going down to micro levels, emphasizing that nobody is weak or strong will result in a sense of belongingness and increase overall happiness.



### PLEASANT COMMUNICATION

Throwing toxic random words at people should be stilled. Most often family members are at the receiving end of unruly words. Next comes our parliament and then bus drivers, conductors and hospital staff of state hospitals. Places of healing become places of reeling.

Good interpersonal relationships goes a long way in building a happy society. In the 2024 World Happiness Report, Sri Lanka was ranked 128<sup>th</sup> out of 143 countries. To increase the happiness of a

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society, we have to focus on individual responsibility, community initiatives, foster strong social connections, promote a sense of community, ensure equitable access to basic needs like healthcare and education, prioritize mental health support, cultivate positive values like kindness, generosity, and trust within the community.

Yes, let's CLEAN our MOTHERLAND metaphorically, and climb the ladder in the 2025 Happiness index.

~Keerthi Wijekulasuriya

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## Welcome ABOARD

We extend a warm welcome to the following members who joined the APES family recently. We look forward to meeting you and enjoying with us at our future events.

Membership Number	Member's Name
434	H. M A. Shirantha Benjamin
435	Dammika de Alwis



The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association of Past Employees of Singer was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025 at the Solis Hotel. This AGM was a momentous event as it was the Silver Jubilee year for the association. Patron of the association, Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya, Singer Chairman, Mr. Mohan Pandithage, and members of the past and present directorate of the company graced the event. President, Mr. Kumar Samarasinghe addressing the gathering recapped the events of the year. The Past vs Present employees' Sports Encounter in September 2024, the Singer Sing n Dance musical event in November 2024, and aiding members towards medical expenses and visiting them were the noteworthy projects for the year.

The ceremonial Silver Jubilee cake was cut by Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya, Mr. Mohan Pandithage and Mr. Kumar Samarasinghe. Another highlight of the event was felicitating a founder member of the association, Mr Gamini Wasalathanthri who counts an association of 60 years with Singer. The president thanked the Entertainment Committee headed by Mr. Y.Chandana for successfully organizing events with innovative ideas. He also expressed his gratitude to Singer Sri Lanka and its subsidiaries for the grants offered, which would go a long way in helping past employees with medical expenses. A special word of thanks went out to Mr. Thushan Amarasuriya for permitting the use of the Singer Finance board room for meetings. In conclusion, he thanked all the committee members for their commitment in serving the committee voluntarily.

Mr. Kumar Samarasinghe was reelected as the President for 2025. The President in his inaugural address stressed the need to launch fund raising projects towards improving the quality of life of our members and the need to organize more social events. The members present had an enjoyable time, rekindling old memories with chit chats. A raffle draw with attractive prizes was held after the formalities. The meeting was followed by a sumptuous lunch.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Patron, Past Presidents, Executive Committee Members, and Members,

It is with great pride and gratitude that I extend my warmest greetings to all of you who form the esteemed "APESinger" family. As we mark 25 years since our founding, we reflect on the remarkable journey of this organization, one built on the dedication, camaraderie, and shared legacy of the legendary employees of Singer Sri Lanka.



Founded by pioneers whose unwavering passion and commitment shaped the success of Singer Sri Lanka, Ape Singer stands today as a testament to their enduring spirit. Our core objective has always been to foster a strong professional and social network among past and present employees, promote welfare initiatives, and uphold the values that define our heritage.

As we step into the future, our commitment remains steadfast in:

- ✔ Strengthening our community – Creating platforms for engagement, mentorship, and professional development.
- ✔ Empowering our members – Providing opportunities for skill enhancement, financial support, and career growth.
- ✔ Giving back to society – Undertaking corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives that make a meaningful impact.
- ✔ Celebrating our legacy – Honoring the achievements of our members and preserving the values that have made Singer Sri Lanka an iconic brand.

I invite all of you, our patron, past presidents, executive committee members, and members to join hands in driving "APESinger" forward with renewed energy. Your support, ideas, and active participation are invaluable in ensuring that we continue to thrive as a united and impactful organization. Together, let us celebrate our past, embrace the present, and shape a future where the "APESinger" community remains a pillar of strength, unity, and inspiration.

Warm regards,  
Kumar Samarasinghe  
President – APESinger

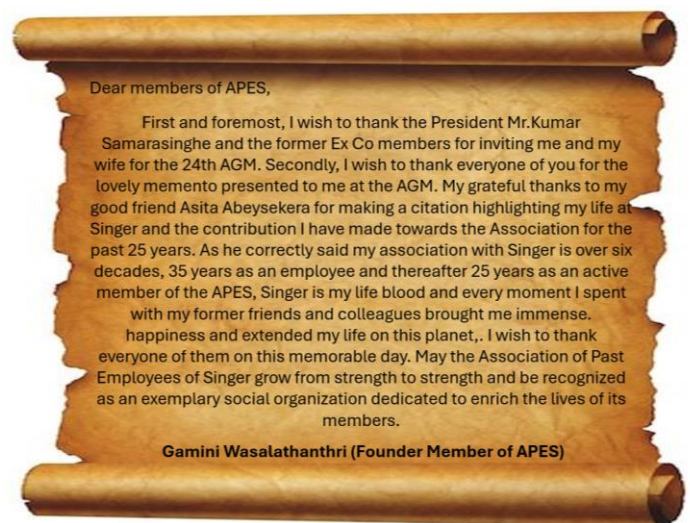
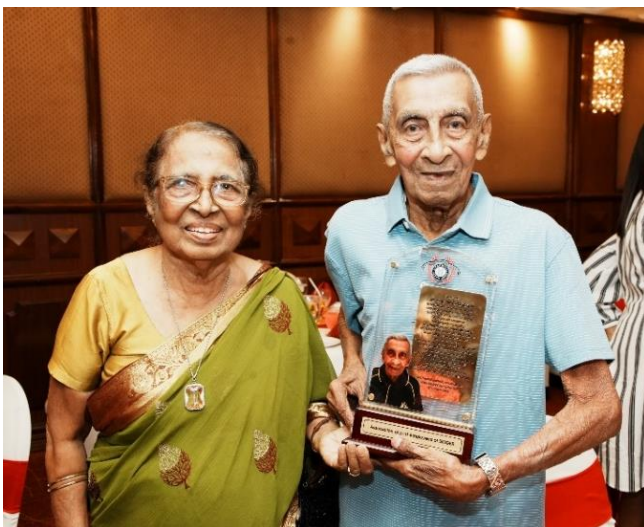


## The Executive Committee - 2025



- **Seated Left to right-** Nilanthi Palihawadana, Thasan Sathyamoorthy (Treasurer), Lahiru Weerasinghe (General Secretary), Kumar Samarasinghe (President) Keerthi Wijekulasuriya (Vice President), Kapila Perera (Vice President)
- **Second row-** M. Mahesharatnam (Asst. Treasurer), Gamini Aththanayaka, Ananda Weerasuriya, Shan Jayasekara, Dhammika De Alwis, Irangani Gunawardena, Praneeth Ishara, Siril Rathnaweera, Sujith Ariyapala
- **Third row-** J. Saddique, Chandana Senaratne, Lalitha Samarasekara, Damith Jayasena, Nihal Kodagoda, Indu Upashantha
- **Absent-** Janaka Mendis (Vice President), Sridhara Dissanayake

### A Thank you note from a Stalwart





## AGM IN PICS

*A moment for celebrations. The ceremonial Silver Jubilee cake is cut by the Patron, Chairman and President.*



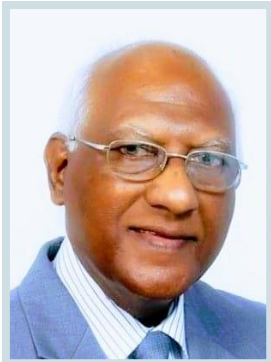








**CHAT ROOM**



We walk into a plush showroom leisurely and admire the range of products showcased. Little do we wonder as to how many myriad decisions of planning and executing has gone to turn a mixture of raw materials to a gleaming product. Procurement decisions are crucial in any industry. They can make or break a market. The SINGER BRAND has always been synonymous with durability and versatility and has always been on par with the changing market environment. Meeting a person who was at the helm of procurement for three decades at Singer was indeed fulfilling. He is Mr. Anton Abeysekera, Purchasing Director who retired in 2006. We spent a very productive morning chatting to this genial gentleman.

**Q- Mr. Abeysekera, shall we retrace your steps back to your young days.**

A-I am a proud Benedictine! Sports gained predominance over studies when I was young. Cricket was my passion and I loved it. I was elated when Mr Candappa , my first coach named me the captain of the under 12 team. I represented the school at all age groups and finally at the prestigious First Eleven.



**Q- Other than sports did you have any other hobbies?**

A-I was an avid reader of books and my cousin who was a great reader and collector of books gave me access at all times to his library. I also read and studied books on science which was also my passion.

**Q- You have a science degree from the University of Ceylon. From Science to a business environment, how did the transition happen?**

A-I believe that acquiring a degree in Science was a great asset as scientific planning and developing systems is vital in all areas of management. After graduation, I did a short stint at teaching Chemistry. Then I was drawn to the business world by the comparatively lucrative salaries. I first landed at Cargills and began my career as a member of the management staff as assistant manager Kandy branch in 1968. Then came the breakthrough! A vacancy at Singer intrigued me. Mr. Rajaratnam the general manager then interviewed us.

**Q- Was Mr. Rajaratnam your first mentor?**

A-When I first joined Singer, Mr Harry Jayasinghe the Marketing Manager at that time was my first guru and his training program of one month left a lasting impression in my mind. The General Manager Mr. Rajaratnam was a brilliant chartered accountant, a financial wizard and his forte of planning of work functions and style of leadership was ingrained in my mind and I was convinced that he was a visionary. After Mr. Rajaratnam two other men of stature chartered the course skillfully within a short space of time and Singer became one of the most successful organisations. Mr Lohendra Namasivayam or simply Nan as he was called expanded the network to a degree and instilled discipline. But it was the vision and ambition of Mr Hemaka Amarasuriya that paved the way for greater success.

**Q- At that time we had only Singer Industries as a factory. So how was procurement done to cater to the massive requirement?**

A – Mr Amarasuriya did the next best thing and gave me a mandate to select products of good quality from local and overseas factories according to predetermined guidelines which eventually gave the company market leadership positions. The import of refrigerators was our first focus and we commenced the import of a good quality range from a Sanyo factory in Thailand and our brand became an instant success. In order to sustain this product introduction we had to set up a Service centre which we did and it was also under my purview initially. I am indeed glad and grateful to have had the opportunity to play my part in operations in the relevant fields to the best of my ability to fulfil the dreams and aspirations and expedite the achievements to fruition of these great visionaries.

**Q - How did you counterattack competition with strong brands like Sony?**

A- Since we had strong Japanese and Korean brands of good quality in the Market we had to match them. Thus selection of the right product was very important. With smart strategies we overcame that situation. In Audio for example we became the market leader with the Singer brand with a range imported from South Korea. The entry of Singer Television to the local market was a great challenge and a success story. During one of my visits to a Chinese fair, I was impressed with a company called TCL and apprised Mr.Amarasuriya about this company on the telephone. We successfully launched a Singer branded range and eventually became market leaders in Television. With the success story of TV s, we gained confidence to venture into washing machines and kitchen appliances.

**Q - The acquisition of the Sisil Brand was a formidable step. How did it enhance the product portfolio?**

A -It hastened the growth of the company with a wide range of products. We also identified niche markets and introduced good quality products which eventually gave us market leadership with products such as water pumps and Generators.

**Q - Any challenges faced with expansion?**

A - The sudden closure of the Singer Nikko company in Japan which produced a range of industrial Sewing Machines for the Garment industry sent shock waves. Though Juki was the market leader in the world for Industrial Sewing Machines, Singer too had a significant market share in some locations. We were able to locate a manufacturer of Industrial Sewing Machines in South Korea and was able to continue selling industrial Sewing machines in our brand.

**Q- What were the highlights of your career?**

A - In the year 2002 the phenomenal growth achieved by Singer Sri Lanka over the years was recognized by the Board of Directors and the hierarchy of the Singer World Corporation and it was decided to set up a Sourcing Division which would look after the product requirements of worldwide locations. Mr.William Ginsberg was appointed Head of this new Division and I was appointed Director of Global Sourcing. I retired from the Singer organisation in the year 2006.

**Q- If you were to publish a memoir of your life at Singer , what would be the catch phrase or sentence?**

A - Well, it would be a whole paragraph!

Working for the Singer organization was indeed a challenge as intimated to me by Mr. Rajaratnam at my first interview. When Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya retired from Singer in the



year 2010 after 25 years at the helm he sent a message to all employees through the issue of Sinera in July 2010 and also made arrangements to send me a copy although I had left Singer by that time. I reproduce an extract from that message as it is indeed complimentary, and he recognized the contribution. I quote “A very strong supply base was built up by Mr. Anton Abeyesekera the then Purchasing Director who was instrumental in selecting the best manufacturing locations from all over the world and getting them to manufacture for Singer” I close. When the Boss has confidence in your ability it is a great pleasure to perform and the challenge is less demanding. Thank you, Mr. Amarasuriya, for your support. Mr. Abeyesekera leads a happy retired life with his wife Nixita, and his two Sons Navindra and Naresh, both Finance professionals. They live in the vicinity of his residence down Thimbirigasyaya Road, Colombo. He and his wife enjoy the company of their three grandchildren. In his own words, using his talents, to give back to society and to his God by engaging in charitable ventures in helping the poor gives him immense happiness. Mr. Abeyesekera is also the author four books on Catholicism.

We wish Mr. Abeyesekera good health, contentment and longevity.

## BizNews

### Our past employees continue to be recognized in the business world



Mr. Kumar Samarasinghe has joined Hunters and Company PLC Board as an Independent Non-Executive Director.

Ceylinco Holdings PLC has announced the appointment of Mr. Chrishan Fernando as an Independent Non-Executive Director with effect from 1 January 2025.



Mr. Gihan de Silva has been appointed chairman of the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation.

SINGER bags two Gold awards and multiple recognitions at the TAGS Awards 2024



SINGER FINANCE secured the Gold Award under the category of Finance Companies, Leasing Companies & other Financial Institutions.

Singer wins the “Most Innovative and Informative Trade Stall Award at Architect 2025



**කොටහේන ගබඩාවේ සුන්දර මතකයන්ගෙන් බිඳක්**

මා මුලින්ම සිංගර් සමාගමට බැඳුණේ 1985 වර්ෂයේදීය. රුපියල් 1092 ය් මුල්ම වැටුප. ඒ කාලේ හැටියට ඒක ලොකු වැටුපක්. එතකොට මගේ වයස අවුරුදු විසි දෙකයි. මගේ **first job** එක. සම්මුඛ පරීක්ෂණයට ගියේ වැනම් වීදියේ ප්‍රධාන කාර්යාලයට. මාව **interview** කරේ ගාමිණී සිල්වා සමඟ නෙවිල් පීරිස් යන මැතිතුමන් කියල තමයි මට මතක. කොටහේන ගබඩා සංකීර්ණයට තමයි මුලින්ම ආවේ. එතකොට එතන තිබුණෙ වහලට ටකරන් ගහපු තරමක් ලොකු ගොඩනැගිල්ලක්. කළමනාකාර මහත්වරු දෙන්නෙක් එතන හිටිය. ප්‍රධානියා මොහාන් මුතුතමිබ් මහත්තයා. එතුමා ඉතා කඩවසම් පුද්ගලයෙක්. ඊළඟට හිටියේ ලොයිඩ් වීරසිංහ මැතිතුමා. මුතුතමිබ් මහත්මයා **stores manager** විදියටත්, වීරසිංහ මහත්මයා **staff assistant** වශයෙනුත් තමයි හිටියේ. අද මේ දෙපලම ජීවතුන් අතර නැහැ. ඔවුන්ගෙන් මා ඉගෙන ගත් දෑ බොහෝය. කොපමණ වැඩ අධික වුවත් මුතුතමිබ් මහත්මයා තමන් වැඩකරන මේසය ඉතාමත් **neat** එකට තමයි තියාගෙන හිටියේ. වැඩක් කරනකොට **neatness** තියෙන්න ඕන කියෙන එක මම එතුමාගෙන් තමයි මුලින්ම ඉගෙන ගත්තේ. ගෙදර යන්න කොච්චර ප්‍රමාද වුණත්, වීරසිංහ මැතිතුමා සිකුරිටි **OIC** සමඟ මුළු **warehouse** එක වටේම ගිහිල්ලා වෙක් කරලා බලලා තමයි ගෙදර යන්නේ. **Warehouse** එකේ කොටස් දෙකයි. එකක් **full units** අනෙක **parts**. **Full units** පැත්තේ **head** විදියට හිටියේ සුන්දරම් මැතිතුමා.එතුමා වටේට වැඩ කරමින් සිටියේ විජේනායක මැතිතුමා සමඟ මෝහන්රාජ් මැතිතුමා. අමතර කොටස් අංශයේ ප්‍රධානියා ඩී විජේන්ද්‍ර මහත්මයා. එතුමාට අමතරව ඥානසේන මහතාත් හිටිය. මෙතුමන්ලාගෙන් මා ඉගෙනගත් දේ බොහෝය අවංකව වැඩ කිරීමත් පිළිවෙලකට වැඩ කිරීමක් මේ අතරින් සුවිශේෂයි.



අපිට හිටපු එකම, **one and only lady** තමයි රෝමනී මුනිරාම් මහත්මිය. බැන්කත් හිනා වෙන භාෂා තුනක් කතා කරන්න, ලියන්න පුළුවන් එතුමියවත් මතක් නොකරම බැහැ. හැමදාම උදේට මුතුතමිබ් මහත්තය දෙනව **loadchit** එකක්. ඒකෙ තියනවා **product** එකයි **shop** එකයි . **copy** දෙකයි. එකක් **full units** අනෙක් එක **parts** එකට. සතියකට සැරයක් **Jaffna , Chavakachcheri , Chunnakam** කියල **load chit** එකක් හමිබ වෙනවාම තමයි. අප්‍රේල් මාසෙ අවුරුදු ළං වෙනකොට මුළු ගබඩාවම හිස් වෙනවා. අපි ඇතුලෙ ක්‍රිකට් ගහනවා. මේ වෙනකොට **warehouse** එක භාරව සිටි උසස් කළමනාකරු තමයි ඇන්ටන් අබේසේකර මැතිතුමා. මට මතක විදියට එදා එතුමාගේ තනතුර වුනේ **P and DM. (Purchasing and Distribution Manager )** එතුමා උසයි තරමක් කප්පි කන්නාඩි දාලා **sideburns** දිගට වවල. එතුමා දකිද්දී අපේ හිතට හරි බියකරු හැඟීමක් එනවා. නමුත් කාලයක් යද්දි තමයි තේරුනේ එතුමා හරිම කරුණාවන්ත මහත්මයෙක් කියලා.



අපි ආසම දවසක් තමයි **Annual Physical Inventory count** එක. එදා **warehouse** එක හරියට මහුල් ගෙයක් වගෙයි. එදාට හෙඩ් ඔෆිස් එකෙන් ගැනු ළමයි ගොඩක් **warehouse** එකට එන නිසා අපි තවත් කැමතියි. කවුන්ට එක පටන් ගන්නේ උදේට කාලා තේ එහෙම බීල. ඉදිආප්ප යි මාලුයි පොල් සම්බෝලෙයි



මතක් වෙනකොට තාමත් කටට කෙලඋනනවා. **API** එක දවස් දෙකයි. අන්තිම දවසේ හවසට යනවා වැතම් විදියේ ඩොමීනියන් එකට පාවියට.

මේ වකවානුවේ සමාගමේ ප්‍රධානියා වුනේ හේමක අමරසූරිය මැතිතුමා. මගේ මතකයට අනුව එතුමාගේ තනතුර වූයේ **MD. ( Managing Director )** ඉතා කුඩාවට ආරම්භ වූ අප සමාගම දැවැන්ත සමාගමක් කරා ගෙන යෑමට එතුමා ගත්තා වූ අපමණ වෙහෙස මුල සිටම දැක්කා වූ පිරිස අතරින් එක්කෙනෙකු වීම මා ලද භාගයක්. එතුමාට ශක්තියක් වූ ගාමිණී අබේසූරිය, ඇන්ටන් අබේසේකර ,නෙවිල් පිරිස් ,ගාමිණී සිල්වා යන මැතිතුමන් මේ වෙලාවේ දී මට මතක් වෙනවා. ඇන්ටන් අබේසේකර මැතිතුමාට පසු කිහිපදෙනෙක්ම

ගබඩාව භාරව කටයුතු කළා. ගාමිණී වාසලතන්ත්‍රි ,**P** ශිවාජ්, ප්‍රියන් සල්ගාදු ,අශෝක පිරිස් යන මැතිතුමන් මගේ මතකයට එනවා.

තවත් අපි කැමතිම දවසක් තමයි **Gents Annual Picnic** එක. බස් දෙකයි එතකොට ගියේ. බොහෝ දිනවල අප ආහාර ගත්තේ දිය ඇල්ලක් ළඟ පාරේ වාඩිවෙලා. නවාතැන් ගත්තේ විශාල ශාලාවල. ටිකක් දුෂ්කරයි නමුත් හරිම සුන්දරයි. පසු කාලයකදී ඉතා ඉහල පහසුකම් සහිතව තමයි විනෝද වාරිකාව යන්නේ. වාර්ෂික විනෝද වාරිකාවේ ගුණාත්මක බව ඉහල දැමීමට මහත් වෙහෙසක් දැරූ පුද්ගලයෙක් තමයි රන්සිරි මැතිතුමා. ඉස්සර ගබඩාවයි සිංගර් සාප්පු කළමනාකාර මහතුන් අතර මනා සබඳතාවයක් තිබුණා. කොහොමටත් සතියකට දෙතුන් දෙනෙක්ම වගේ ඇවිල්ල බඩු අරන් යනවා. මෙහෙම කාලයක් යනකොට තනි ගොඩනැගිල්ලක තිබුණු ගබඩාව, වටා පිටාවේ තිබුණු තවත් ගොඩනැගිලි තුනක්ම අත්පත් කර ගන්නවා. මේ එක් ගොඩනැගිල්ලක ආරම්භ කරනවා **Singer Service** එක. ඒකෙ ප්‍රධානියා වුණේ අනිල් සමරසේකර මැතිතුමා මේ අතරතුර සිංගර් ඉතිහාසයේ සුවිශේෂී පරිච්ඡේදයක් ආරම්භ වුණා. ඒ තමයි **Whole Sale**

**Division** එක ආරම්භ කිරීම. මට මතක හැටියට ඒකෙ ප්‍රධානියා වුනේ ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ මැතිතුමා. **Warehouse** එකට තවත් සුවිශේෂී දිනයක් වන්නේ **90** දශකයේ මුල් වකවානුවේ. ඒ තමයි ගබඩාව පරිගණකගත කිරීම. මුලින්ම **systemized** කළේ අමතර කොටස් අංශය. **IBM System36 machine** එකයි, **IBM Line printer**



එකයි **Dump Monitors** දෙකයි **key board** දෙකයි. මෙහිදී දැවැන්තම වැඩ කොටසක් ඉටුකල, මතක් කරන්නම ඕන වර්තයක් තමයි අපිත් පරණවිතාන මැතිතුමා. එතුමාගෙන් මා ඉගෙන ගත් දැබොහෝය.

සමහර **Month End** දවස් වලට පරිසනක පද්ධතියේ නොයෙකුත්වෙනස්කම් සිදු කිරීම සඳහා පැමිණෙනවා තවත් එක්තරා වැදගත් පුද්ගලයෙක්. ඒ තමයි කපිල පෙරේරා මැතිතුමා. හවස **5.30** වෙනකොට තේ බොන්න කලින් අපි යනවා ප්‍රධාන ගේට්ටුව ලඟට . එතනට එනවා ; සෝමක්කා ; විශාල මලු දෙකක්

උස්සගෙන. පාන් කාල ( 1/4 )දෙකට පළල ඇතුලට සීනිසම්බෝල දාලා . පුදුම රහස් . ඇයත් දැන් ජීවතුන් අතර නැහැ. තේ පානයෙන් පසු ගබඩාවත් කාර්යාලයත් අතර කොරිඩෝවේ හැමෝම වගේ දුම් පානය කරනවා. එතන තමයි නොයෙකුත් අදහස් යෝජනා වෝදනා හැමෝගෙන්ම එලියට එන්නේ.

වචනයෙන් විස්තර කරන්න බැරි තරම් සුන්දර අතීතයක්. **1985** න් ආරම්භ වූ මගේ සිංගර් දිවි ගමනේ දී මවිසින් දක්නා ලද සමාගමේත් ගබඩාවේත් සුවිශේෂී වූ සන්ධිස්ථානයන් මෙසේ පෙළගස්විය හැක.



- ගබඩාවේ මෙහෙයුම් කටයුතු පරිගණකගත කිරීම
- සිංගර් කෘෂි අංශය ස්ථාපිත කිරීම
- **Whole Sale** අංශය ස්ථාපිත කිරීම
- **Mega** ප්‍රදර්ශනාගාර දිවයින පුරා පිහිටුවීම
- **SISIL** සන්නාමය ලබා ගැනීම.
- **Microchip** ආයතනය පිහිටවා පරිගණක වෙළඳාම ආරම්භ කිරීම
- සිංගර් සමාගමේ අනුග්‍රහයෙන් ක්‍රිකට් ලෝක කුසලානයක් පැවැත්වීම. ( මෙය එදා මෙදා තුර ලංකාවේ තනි සමාගමක් විසින් පැවැත් වූ අති දැවැන්ත ක්‍රීඩා ඉසව්වකි.)
- නවීන සන්නිවේදන උපකරණ ගබඩාවට ලැබීම. උදා . **IBM Desktop** එකක් ( ධාරිතාවය **1GB** ), **email** පහසුකම, **photo copy** යන්ත්‍රයක් ලැබීම ,**fax** යන්ත්‍රයක් ලැබීම , නවීන දුරකථන පද්ධතියක් ලැබීම.
- ඇල්ල ළඟ වලව්ව ,පළිඟු මැණිකේ, මායා වැනි අතිශයින් ජනප්‍රිය ටෙලි නාට්‍යය ඉදිරිපත් කිරීමට හැකිවීම.

වර්ෂ **2004** සිට **2023** දක්වා මගේ සේවා කාලය ගෙවුණේ පිළියන්දල බෙදා හැරීමේ මධ්‍යස්ථානයේය. එම අවුරුදු **19** කාලයේදී මාලද අත්දැකීම් ඇසුරෙන් ලියන ලද සටහනක් පසුව ඉදිරිපත් කිරීමට බලාපොරොත්තු වෙමි.

ස්තූතියි .  
ලලිත් දිසානායක



**HUMOROUS ANECDOTES ON n OFF THE FIELD**

Work at Singer was hectic with month end deadlines to achieve sales targets and to finalize accounts. Yet, whilst running the rat race people found time to enjoy and add merriment. Here we publish three stories as our members go down memory lane and recount some humorous episodes.

**TUK TUK MAHATHAYA BY GAMINI WASALATHANTHRI**

This is an incident which happened in the late sixties, may be 1968 or 1969. I was the District Manager in charge of Kurunegala District which comprised of 6 shops, namely Kurunegala, Kuliypitiya, Mawathagama, Narammala Chilaw and Nattandya. One day I was engaged in carrying out an inventory check of stocks held at Kuliypitiya Shop. Quite unexpectedly, Mr. Robin Ebert my Area Manager who was an ex Naval Officer, a strict disciplinarian. very active, very methodical in whatever he does walked into the shop. Being the methodical man, he made sure he had everything he needed for the tour. His tour paraphernalia included the Typewriter, Mosquito net, Alarm clock, Torch, Pens and Pencils and official stationery apart from his personal belongings to last a fortnights tour.



After exchanging greetings and partaking a nice cup of tea provided by the shop manager, I continued with the inventory check. Mr. Ebert as usual, commenced his pet subject of visiting bad hire purchase accounts. Selecting a few F128s (Hire Purchase Accounts Payment Record) he stepped out of the shop saying " I will see you at the Rest House in the evening" At about 5 p.m. in the evening, he returned to the

shop with the shop assistant carrying two machine heads which Mr, Ebert had re-possessed from two delinquent accounts. When it was time for the shop to be closed for the day, he suggested that we stop work and go to the Rest House for a peaceful evening and a good nights rest. Mr. Ebert had been reserved a room on the right hand side of the corridor facing the entrance. It was one before the last. The last room was occupied by the Kuliypitiya Magistrate. My room was at the other end of the corridor.

After dinner we went to our respective rooms to enjoy a peaceful night. The next morning when I came out of my room, I was surprised to see Mr. Ebert coming out from another room a little away from the original room. I walked upto Mr. Ebert and inquired what happened after I left him the previous night. Without any hesitation, he said ' That idiot of a magistrate who was

suffering from insomnia made a complaint to the Rest House Keeper that he could not sleep as the noise of my typewriter was disturbing him. Furthermore, he had delivered an ex-parte judgement instructing the Rest House Keeper to move him to another room immediately.

Poor Mr. Ebert! This incident spread like wild fire in the District and Mr. Ebert who was until then affectionately called 'Kadiya" was thereafter known as ' Mr. Ebert the Kadiya alias Tuk Tuk Mahathaya'.

Note This article is re published for the reading pleasure of all members, especially those who joined APES after August 2016.

## THE LEAVE REQUEST BY NEIL HATHARASINGHE



Back in the 1980s, while working in the Kegalle district, I had another hilarious experience. At the time, most of my colleagues and friends knew I was suffering from severe gastritis. Despite that, I often joined them for a couple of drinks after work in the evenings, without knowing much about the impact of alcohol on gastritis. The only person who truly educated me about gastritis was Mr. Ravi de Silva, the former

District Manager in Kurunegala, who went on to become the M/M- Agro later. Unfortunately, by then, it was a bit late, as I was already paying the price for my habits. One morning, I met Mr. Damith Jayasena, the District Manager for Kegalle, at the Warakapola showroom. Damith and I had been good friends since we worked together on the clerical panel in 1981 — I was in Kotahena, and he was in Chatham Street. We had no issues working together in a friendly manner.

That day, Damith mentioned he was heading to the Veyangoda showroom to meet the Area Manager, Mr. Srimal Amarasooriya. He offered to pass along any messages I had. I replied, "Yes, please let him know that I'm suffering from gastritis and that I plan to take a leave tomorrow to get some rest." Damith agreed that it was a good idea. While Damith went to Veyangoda, I went to Mirigama for fieldwork. Later that evening, when I met Damith again in Kegalle, I happily asked him about my leave request. He stared at me for a moment, then burst out laughing and said, "What bloody leave? As soon as I passed your message, he immediately said, "I know that guy, morning medicine bottle, evening arrack bottle!

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Thank you for reading 😊