

Words Epitomizing Leadership:



*Voice of Major General Milinda Peiris as
the Vice Chancellor of General Sir John
Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka
Edited by Kithsiri Amaratunga*

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Defence University,
Sri Lanka**

**Edited
By
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This book contains the text of a selection of speeches delivered by Major General MP Peiris RWP RSP USP ndc psc during his tenure as the Vice Chancellor of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU), Sri Lanka.

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Editor's Comment

This book contains a representative cross section of speeches delivered by Major General Milinda Peiris at various occasions during his tenure as the Vice Chancellor of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) in Sri Lanka from 2008 to 2016, and the book is unique as it is the first ever collection of speeches delivered by a senior military officer in Sri Lanka, and perhaps by a Vice Chancellor in Sri Lanka as well.

The idea of going for a publication of this sort serves several purposes. First, it will reflect on the personality and leadership of the man who has been instrumental in elevating General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University from being a military university with a limited scope to become a well-known and well-established state university in Sri Lanka that caters to a larger student population including a considerable segment of foreign students as well. In this sense, it is a fitting tribute to the yeoman service rendered by this indefatigable leader who brought about a massive development to KDU in a relatively short span of about eight years, which records a massive infrastructure development complemented by the qualitative and quantitative growth of human resources along with the unprecedented expansion of higher educational opportunities offered by KDU in various disciplines. The speeches recorded herein speak of his vision and philosophy and how he exerts a positive influence on those involved in KDU affairs – academic, military, administrative and other staff, students, parents, alumni, professionals, political authorities, foreign scholars and so on in order to materialize the goals in his mind.

The speeches herein could also be a unique source material for future generations interested in the evolutionary process of a university of a different character and generally in the evolution of higher education in Sri Lanka during a crucial phase of our history that marked the transition from a dark era of torment and suffering to a time of hope, expectation and promise, i.e. the end of separatist war waged by the LTTE in 2009 and the subsequent peace. The contents of the book will have a historical significance though characteristically different from a historical account recorded from the point of view of a historian; one could consider it as a collection of 'verbal pictures' that vividly depict the events of a particular era. The significance of the contents may change with the course of time, and our inquisitive future generations will find them useful in a different way when taking stock of what happened in the

country during this crucial period of our history. In this sense, the book fulfils a responsibility towards our future generations.

Thirdly, the speeches are partly characteristic of the genre of military speeches, and thus they provide rare materials for those interested in discourse analysis. Meticulous preparation, elaborate greeting to everyone in the audience in keeping with protocol requirements, variation of the tone to suit the audience are some of the characteristic features among others. In this context, these speeches can also be useful for students, particularly those in the military, as models to develop their public speaking skills.

This publication could not have been possible if I did not receive the kind permission of Major General Milinda Peiris to publish his speeches. In fact, it was a gesture of goodwill for my contribution in drafting some of the speeches on his advice and instructions, which was indeed an extremely tough and challenging task. – Very often I was compelled to endlessly edit draft after draft until he was fully satisfied that the words did express what he wanted to convey to a particular audience.

Finally, I wish that this book would be a true tribute to Major General Peiris whose name will be written in the annals of KDU history as the Vice Chancellor who decisively changed the course of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.

Kithsiri Amaratunga
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Foreword

It is indeed with great pleasure that I pen this foreword for the book, *Words Epitomizing Leadership*, which is a collection of a cross section of speeches delivered by Major General Milinda Peiris as the Vice Chancellor of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka. The foreword is a glimpse on the contents therein.

Any leader is ultimately judged by his vision, wisdom and the strength of the foundation laid by him for development and prosperity. Having read the speeches contained herein and heedfully listened to some of them, I humbly express my view that he has been an extraordinary general with a clear vision, dedication, determination and courage, who could make an impact on his audience to align with the underlying vision and philosophy of his speeches.

Major General Milinda Peiris' ambition and astute leadership and highly effective governance have taken General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) to a level of local, regional and international recognition beyond imagination in both military and academic affairs. Most of his speeches vividly reveal his inner strength of integrity mingled with an intense patriotism.

The country will remember him forever with gratitude as a Vice Chancellor who transformed General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University into a world renowned, academically perfect military institution with an advanced research affiliation.

Indeed, Major General Milinda Peiris is a friend in need and a true son of our motherland.

Prof MHJ Ariyaratne
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Senior Fellow, PGIM
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1. Address at KDU Symposium 2011 on 18.08.2011

Ven Clergy, Hon Minister of External Affairs Prof GL Peiris, Hon Minister of International Monetary Cooperation Dr Sarath Amunugama, Minister of Power and Energy Hon Champika Ranawaka, Secretary to His Excellency the President Mr Lalith Weeratunga, Secretary to the Ministry of Defence and the Chairman of the Board of Management of KDU Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Secretary External Affairs, Your Excellencies, Chief of Defence Staff, Commander of the Army, Commander of the Navy, Inspector General of Police, Chairman University Grants Commission, Vice Chancellors of other universities, Distinguished invitees, Senior Officers, international scholars, scholars from other universities and institutions, ladies and gentlemen, as the Vice Chancellor of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, I have the honour and privilege to welcome you all to KDU Symposium 2011, the fourth annual symposium of the university, on the theme *Challenges of Post Conflict Sri Lanka*.

Ladies and gentlemen, KDU which was established in 1981 as a Defence Academy slowly but surely evolved itself to be a university on a par with other universities of the country in a relatively short period of time. Its growth assumed a new phase in October 2007 when His Excellency the President Mahinda Rajapaksa renamed it as General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University giving it the due recognition it richly deserved as a degree awarding institution in Sri Lanka. Prior to this change KDU was evolving slowly for nearly 27 years due to diverse constraints in the backdrop of the country's struggle to recover from the menace of terrorism.

However, the year 2009 changed the paradigm for the country as well as for KDU with Sri Lanka's unprecedented victory over the apparently invincible surge of terrorism that had engulfed the nation for thirty long years. This was a victory achieved mainly due to the foresight and visionary leadership of His Excellency the President Mahinda Rajapaksa. The other contributory factors were the relentless and resolute leadership of Secretary Defence, Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa; the valour, courage, and determination of officers and soldiers of the tri-forces, civil defence force and the police; and the moral support extended by all patriotic people of the country irrespective of ethnic, religious or other differences.

With this massive change in the country, Kotelawala Defence University too assumed a prominent role in resurgent Sri Lanka. Ladies and gentlemen, I am humbly proud to announce that in the recent past, with the blessings of HE the

President, and particularly with the dynamic leadership of the Secretary Defence, Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa and the cooperation and encouragement extended by all members of the Board of Management, the University has been able to keep a giant stride forward. And the achievements made by the university during the last three years or so in both quantitative and qualitative domains are quite phenomenal. Every attempt has been made to enhance KDU to be a centre of excellence in Defence and military education. The establishment of new Faculties of Medicine and Law, the revision of curricula to address new demands, expansion of the scope of KDU courses to offer master's and doctoral degree programmes, opening up opportunities for non-military students to follow KDU courses, enhancement of human resources and infrastructure facilities such as the KDU teaching hospital with all modern facilities are among them to name a few. So, the university is now on its way to assume a leading role in the country's tertiary education to fulfill the contemporary demand of making a knowledge society to face new challenges facing the country in the post conflict scenario. The staff of KDU and I are quite confident that we as a university are capable of becoming one of the best universities in the country in the years to come.

This year's symposium on the extremely pertinent and timely theme, *Challenges of Post Conflict Sri Lanka*, bears ample testimony to the new role assumed by this Defence University as I mentioned before. Even though we are confident that our motherland is back on track for a glorious future as a peaceful nation – a future in which all communities will live harmoniously together with dignity and without fear and intimidation – we are not without challenges ahead of us. It is true that we do not encounter the traumatic experiences that we were used to experience in our daily lives a few years ago. But, there are envious yet invisible forces from within and without operating to unsettle the stability we have achieved through great sacrifices. Hence, we should constantly be vigilant of such threats and be always ready to counteract and foil such attempts as a nation. Herein, we must have the foresight to intelligently re-examine the future role of our armed forces. Further, the contemporary socio-cultural, geopolitical, and economic realities of the world make matters even more complicated. They make it difficult to fathom the gravity of problems faced by emerging nations like ours. That is why we need to assess and reassess our strengths and weaknesses alike in all fields of expertise to forge ahead to achieve our dream world of prosperity. So, we cannot have the luxury of being complacent in the face of the victory achieved. We, as a unified nation must strive hard for further victories in economic, social, cultural, scientific, and technological spheres that can contribute to the post conflict developmental efforts aimed at making Sri Lanka the “Wonder of Asia” while focussing on reconstruction, rehabilitation and reconciliation as major areas of interest in the nation building process.

I believe that our armed forces have a major responsibility in this nation building process too. Hence, the time has come for us to redefine the role of our armed forces in this new scenario. Ladies and gentlemen, the greatest advantage Sri Lanka has today is the possession of the most successful armed forces in the contemporary world. And we should harness this great human resource with unparalleled and versatile skills, great expertise in diverse fields of specialization, and remarkable potential for innovation, for the development effort of the nation. Already, the country can witness their contribution in the reconstruction and rehabilitation process in the north and the east. This, I believe, should be done without losing sight of possible future threats for peace, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation. We must have our armed forces ready to face any such eventuality in the future. Thus, I am of the view that in this symposium we should pay our serious and focal attention to redefine the role of the armed forces in the post conflict scenario to enable the country to march towards success.

With all these challenges in mind, we invited intellectuals, scholars, military leaders, professionals, expatriates, political authorities and even members of the business community to take part in the present symposium. The idea is to enable all of them to share their knowledge and expertise in diverse fields, which I believe is essential to steer the nation towards our cherished goal of a developed nation – a target we need to achieve sooner than later.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am glad to mention on this occasion that the response for our request from our sister universities and other academic and professional bodies has been excellent. Out of hundreds of academic papers more than 75 papers selected by a well-qualified panel of reviewers will be presented tomorrow in five technical sessions chaired by eminent scholars in the country. Equally or even more importantly, we have organised five plenary sessions where eminent national and international scholars address the symposium on sub themes that come under the overarching symposium theme. Further, these sessions will be chaired by eminent scholars and personalities in relevant fields. So, I am sure that the KDU Symposium 2011 will pave the way for an awakening of intellectual activities in the country, which will be of paramount importance for facing novel challenges in order to set and achieve new goals to carry the country forward.

In conclusion, I wish to welcome once more all the national and international dignitaries, presenters, and participants who are here today. Let me especially welcome with gratitude Maj General Javed Iqbal Ramday of Pakistan Army, Prof Alan I Hatcher from UK, and Ms Mara E Karlin from USA for coming all the way to Sri Lanka to take part in our symposium. I hope that the deliberations in this

symposium will be beneficial for all parties concerned and will eventually help uphold Sri Lanka as a country that befits its 2500 year old culture. Like the legendary phoenix that emerged from the ashes, Sri Lanka had emerged from dark eras time and again in the past, and this time around we should emerge not to fall again. Let all of our names be written in the annals of Sri Lankan history as shareholders of the resurgence of a country once known as the Pearl of the Indian Ocean and the Granary of the East – names coined by 18th and 19th century travellers, explorers and traders in recognition of its beauty, value and prosperity.

May the Symposium 2011 be a productive one for all participants, and may its deliberations be of use for the future of our nation! Thank you.

2. Vote of Thanks at the Opening Ceremony of the Pilot Biogas Project on 17.11.2011

Deputy Vice Chancellor, Defence; Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic; Director, IPGS; Mr GK Upawansa, Consultant of the Pilot Biogas Project of KDU; Capt PSC Fernando, Supervisor of the Project; Deans of Faculties, Heads of Departments and ladies and gentlemen, good morning!

The pilot biogas project is yet another useful and productive project that KDU has undertaken in the recent past, and today at this formal opening ceremony we are glad to note that it is a success story that every one of us can be happy about. I am delighted to say that this biogas unit, established one year back, is successfully functioning at present. It has reduced the expenditure on LP gas consumption at the kitchen of the Officer Cadets' Mess by 16 to 20%. Further, we have been able to recover the construction cost of the entire project just within a period of 10 months.

Besides its financial benefits, the project is also significant because it highlights our role as a university in setting up new trends in the research culture of the university set up in Sri Lanka. Though it may be a small project, its significance in terms of addressing new demands of the country is immeasurable because it is the need of the hour to go for innovations in search of green energy. Hence, there is no doubt that this biogas project will be of great use to all of us as an alternative energy source. So, I am hopeful that the project will be a launching pad for future innovations and research in this line. It is in this context that I am glad, as the Vice Chancellor of General Sir John Kotelawela Defence University, to make the vote of thanks at this simple yet important ceremony. Also, I consider that I am obliged to thank those who were behind the success of this whole project.

First, I consider that it is my duty to thank Mr GK Upawansa, who is known as the father of the biogas sector in Sri Lanka, for the immense contribution he rendered to establish a biogas unit at KDU. Mr Upawansa, ladies and gentlemen, has established more than 3500 biogas units all over the country. A graduate of the University of Peradeniya and a scholar with a postgraduate degree from the University of Reading, USA, Mr Upawansa is a key figure in the biogas sector in Sri Lanka. Also, he has a fund of experience through his involvements in many biogas projects and

programmes in our friendly Asian nation, China. Mr Upawansa, please accept our sincere thanks and gratitude to you for your contribution by providing your expert consultancy without any financial remunerations.

Ladies and gentlemen, it should be noted that our biogas unit is a new innovation of Mr Upawansa – an innovation developed overcoming problems in conventional Chinese and Indian biogas systems. He has done a great deal of research spending his own money for developing this particular biogas model. Also, he has applied for Patent Right for his innovation known as Lanka Tunnel Biogas Model. Mr Upawansa deserves our respect and salute for making a great gesture of generosity by offering KDU the ownership of the Patent Right without any restriction enabling the university to avail itself with many opportunities in research and development and in dissemination of knowledge related to the model. Mr Upawansa, your name will be written in the annals of KDU history in golden letters for your most generous gesture. I am sure that we have been able to achieve success in this project due to the dedication of many others who were involved in this project at various levels. So, I take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to Captain PSC Fernando, the former Head of the Department of Marine Engineering and Sciences for his initiation and supervision of the project during his tenure at KDU. A special word of thanks goes to Ms Padmamali Jayasuriya, Lecturer, KDU for her contribution as the Coordinator and researcher for optimizing the reactor performance and maintaining the biogas project of KDU with a lot of commitment.

Also, I would like to thank the Project Officer, members of the Department of Marine Engineering and Sciences, and all members of academic and military staff who contributed in numerous ways for the success of the pilot biogas project. I am sure the success of this project will generate your interest in carrying out similar projects at KDU in the future. Finally, I thank all of you who participated at this opening ceremony of the pilot biogas project of KDU. Thank you.

3. Welcoming the First Day-Scholar Batch to Intake 29 on 30.01.2012

Deputy Vice Chancellors, Defence and Academic; Deans of the Faculties of Engineering, Law, Management and Defence Studies; Registrar; members of the academic staff; officers; newly selected Intake 29 students and parents – Good Morning!

Ladies and gentlemen of Intake 29, I welcome you to General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University where you will spend 3 to 4 years of most important and crucial time of your lives. First, I would like to congratulate you on being selected to KDU, having competed with many candidates from all over Sri Lanka, and I would like to thank you for very rightly deciding to select this University for your higher studies.

Dear students, your presence will be a novel experience for all of us at KDU, which has so far been dedicated solely to the higher education needs of the armed forces in Sri Lanka. As you all may be aware, KDU, in a silent way, contributed to our historical victory over brutal terrorism that engulfed the nation for almost 30 years. We are proud that hundreds of KDU officers gave their fullest for bringing in the much needed peace for our nation that we all are enjoying today.

Ladies and gentlemen, today, our interests and focus are different. What the country is asking from us is different. We need more and more young men and women equipped with sound knowledge, proper attitudes, and versatile skills to take the country forward. That is why we decided to open our doors for knowledge hungry civilian students in Sri Lanka to follow our degree programmes at a reasonable rate. Dear parents, I should very clearly inform you that we consider this a national requirement and a national service. It is a need of the hour in line with the vision of His Excellency the President, to transform Sri Lanka into a knowledge hub of Asia. Parents, in this venture, we as a state university and you as patriotic parents help our national economy by saving a lot of money which would otherwise go to other countries engaged in the second largest global business, education which is second only to the business of arms.

Ladies and gentlemen, as you have seen in our presentation a few minutes ago, KDU is fast expanding in its scope of activities. We do not stay stagnant and sit back on our laurels. Ours is now a fully-fledged university with a medical faculty as well. We have also begun the construction of a teaching hospital, which will be one of the best in Asia. In the same way our university is achieving a vast popularity as one of the best universities in Sri Lanka. Our degree programmes have been

recognized by the UGC and we provide many facilities for you, including some of the best available among universities in Sri Lanka. Our engineering students will be given the much needed exposure for industrial training. Students reading for LLB will, on graduation, be able to write the final examination at Law College Sri Lanka and become fully-fledged Attorneys-at-Law. Ladies and gentlemen, you cannot follow Aeronautical and Marine Engineering degree programmes in any other university in Sri Lanka. So, our degree programmes are second to none.

Dear students, from today onwards your life will change. There will be many challenges that you may have to overcome. You are going to be introduced to something little different from other universities of Sri Lanka. You will be engaging in your academic studies in a more disciplined environment that will be free from political agendas and other interferences as experienced in other national universities. Parents, I would like to point out that there will be no such unfortunate events like ragging, strikes, student protests and all sort of antisocial activities in this university, and we ensure that your children will graduate on scheduled time and they will complete their degrees much before their counterparts in other universities complete theirs.

Dear students, your parents, friends, relatives and all citizens of this country expect a lot from you. It is your job now to live up to their expectations. So, remember that we all expect from you a lot of commitment and dedication as they are the key and essential factors for your success. Also, a highly qualified and experienced staff is here to help you to achieve your goals, and you should approach your lecturers and instructors for any difficulties that you may face because they are here to help you. It is only if you follow these instructions we will be able to achieve our goal to produce quality graduates with discipline who will be productive citizens with the finest qualities and highest academic proficiency.

You also need to very clearly understand the unique nature of this university. Please understand that our primary focus is to produce graduates for the armed forces, and you must comprehend the character and environment of the institution and adjust your behaviour accordingly. You will be studying together with commissioned and cadet officers. Therefore, you must keep it in mind that you do not disrupt the discipline of the establishment by any sort of unnecessary behavior. You must strictly adhere to our codes of ethics and conduct, by-laws and other regulations so that you can achieve your goals without any hindrance. So please read through the instructional manual very carefully and adhere to the requirements therein fully.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we at KDU strive hard to produce all-round personalities and not just book worms. Parents, you are aware that a grave problem in our country

today is that there are many graduates without employment. But, if you open a newspaper you can see hundreds of vacancies advertised daily. What is the reason for this mismatch? The reason is that employers are concerned about the employability of our graduates. A recent research has shown that employers' consideration of academic qualifications is only about 35% and the rest is on their soft skills such as communication skills, team work, flexibility, creativity, sociability, and so on and so forth. This is an area where KDU is much ahead of other universities. So, I encourage you all to take part in sports activities, diverse club activities, and various other functions organized by the university targeted at developing our undergraduates' soft skills that will ensure that they will become marketable and employable graduates with a greater demand in the competitive world of today.

Ladies and gentlemen, we, being a defence university, pay much attention to one's physical fitness. We believe in the motto, "healthy mind in a healthy body." So let me request you to make use of the wonderful gymnasium, swimming pool, and all the other sports facilities available at KDU to develop yourselves into balanced personalities that the country is demanding today.

Let me finally wish you success in all your endeavors to achieve ultimate challenges of life. I also would like to assure you that my staff and I are always ready to help you in all possible ways to achieve such challenges.

In conclusion, I welcome you again to this unique and prestigious university. I also make this an opportunity to thank your parents, teachers and loved ones for encouraging, supporting and approving your choice to join KDU. I wish good luck to all of you. Thank you.

4. Welcoming New Academic Staff on 01.03.2012

Deputy Vice Chancellors, Defence and Academic; Deans of the Faculties of Engineering, Law, Management and Defence Studies; Registrar; members of the academic staff; officers and new members of the academic staff, Good Morning!

Ladies and gentlemen, let me formally welcome you, the newly recruited lecturers or academic staff members to this unique defence university in Sri Lanka. Let me also congratulate you, at the outset, for being selected to join us despite tough competition, and to do so as members of a noble profession, to train and educate young learners for another noble profession, the profession of arms.

Teaching as you are aware has always being one of the noblest professions in the world, and this nobility of the profession has trickled down from great religious teachers like Lord Buddha, Jesus Christ and Prophet Mohamed and many great secular teachers or philosophers like Plato, Aristotle, and Socrates from whose tradition descend university teachers of the contemporary world.

University teachers are also known as intellectuals, people who use their minds creatively. They are the people of very high intelligence, who have selected to master a particular discipline or a field to study which they love. They are the producers of knowledge and disseminators of knowledge. This dual function makes them different from ordinary teachers. Therefore, it is obvious that your role and function is not only to teach your subjects but also to contribute to your field of study through research. So let me then ask you to be determined from day one to concentrate on both these roles and develop yourselves into good scholars who will do a great contribution to the university, society, country, the world and the humanity at large. Try to gain satisfaction through such academic contributions that would make you happy when you grow old and think back about your past.

I believe that great teachers are not born – they develop and they better themselves over the years constantly evaluating and re-evaluating their own performance. Those who do not evaluate their own performance and take responsibility for their own improvement are doomed to remain as they are – not improving, not getting better and ultimately not giving their students the best they can. You must ask yourselves each day, how can I do my job better? How can I support learning better? How can I help my students' progress further? It is through this process, I

believe, that you can serve yourselves while serving your students and the university.

Ladies and gentlemen, KDU as I mentioned is a unique place due to several reasons. First, it is unique because it is the only military university in Sri Lanka, and it does not come directly under the UGC. As a military establishment also it is unique because it trains people for all the three forces, the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Further, it is also unique because from this year onwards we graduate civilian students as well. Similarly, the staff at KDU consists of members from all the three forces as well as civilians. So, it is a multicultural, multi-faceted organization primarily dedicated for higher education of military personnel. Why I elaborate these is due to several reasons. One is that your survival and success in this institution will much depend on the degree to which you understand these unique features and acclimatize yourselves with the requirements, norms, practices, customs, and traditions of this multifaceted organization. While keeping in mind the primary role of an academic as I mentioned above, you should also fit in with the culture of this organization so that you will not become a misfit. I am sure you all have that intellectual capacity to quickly identify those requirements and settle in as one of our family members.

Ladies and gentlemen, keep it in mind that we are a university growing at a very rapid phase. About three years ago, we did not have a Medical Faculty or a Law Faculty or in fact we did not have any faculties as such. We only had several departments in the Academic Wing and several squadrons in the Military Wing. But, in a very short period of time we have been able to convert this university into a one with several faculties with adequate staff and facilities. Infrastructure facilities have increased in leaps and bounds. New and well-equipped laboratory facilities for the Engineering faculty, a massive building complex for the Medical Faculty which will be complete soon, the best teaching hospital that is being put up etc. are some such facilities.

So finally, let me tell you that what we expect from you is your dedication and commitment to provide the best contribution for the growth of this university, to elevate the status of this university to make it one of the best in Asia, which is our first target in our path for further recognition in the world. So, give us your one hundred percent contribution, and I assure you that we will, on our part, give maximum support and encouragement possible for whatever positive projects, activities and innovations that you are prepared to launch for the betterment of the university and your discipline. I conclude by wishing you a very productive and satisfying academic career at KDU. Thank you.

5. Address at the Launch of Mobitel M-learning Platform on 29.03.2012

Deputy Vice Chancellors, Defence and Academic; Deans of the Faculties of Engineering, Law, Management and Defence Studies; Registrar, Academics, Officers, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me first welcome the CEO of Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel, Directors and other representatives who are here today to participate in this official launching of the Mobitel M-learning platform empowering academics at General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University to deliver their services to a larger clientele in a more efficient manner.

Ladies and gentlemen, today is yet another significant day for General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University. The reason is that we are going to keep another revolutionary step forward in our march towards becoming a renowned seat of higher learning in Asia. In recent times, we have been able to expand our horizons by introducing both undergraduate and postgraduate courses in divergent fields like Law, Medicine, Engineering, Management, Information and Communication Technology etc. Further, we have been taking many measures to enhance the quality of our degree programmes in line with the guidelines of the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council of the UGC. Also, we have enhanced our infrastructure facilities to a great extent to enable the provision of high quality higher educational opportunities for our students. We have also been able to expand our clientele to embrace civilian students for our degree programmes. Further, we have already taken necessary measures to invite and attract foreign students from SAARC countries as well as other Asian countries for our degree programmes. It is in this backdrop, ladies and gentlemen, the introduction of m-learning facilities would invariably become another landmark in our march towards success.

As I understand, m-learning or “mobile learning” is the latest mode of Distance Education in the world – a further step from e-learning in which most of us are very much a part of. Today, m-learning has become a fast growing mode of learning in the world. I am sure m-learning is going to be an extremely useful tool for busy modern day learners, who hardly find time for conventional modes of learning experiences. Further, the younger generations in the world today are very much a part of a mobile community. Smart phones, palmtops, tablets etc. have become part and parcel of their lives. Hence, m-learning will be the order of the day in future learning scenarios. Therefore, I reckon that what we are doing today in

collaboration with the leader of Mobile services in Sri Lanka – that is Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel – is a futuristic step in higher education in Sri Lanka.

The Mobitel M-learning platform, which is the brainchild of the Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel is a breakthrough in the pursuit of higher studies via advanced technology. So, we are glad that we were able to enter into a mutually beneficial agreement with Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel to make use of this platform for our postgraduate degree programmes. KDU will take steps to offer through this platform, courses such as Master of Philosophy/ Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Laws, Master of Business Administration in E-governance, Master of Business Administration in Logistic Management, Master of Science Degree in Military Science and Technology and Master of Science in Management.

This step, Ladies and gentlemen, is especially significant for military personnel who seek to pursue higher education. It has been noted that m-learning is mostly popular among military personnel in the world, understandably so, due to their round the clock involvement in diverse and compulsory duties in faraway places in adverse conditions. Hence, this introduction of the m-learning platform is going to be particularly beneficial for such personnel in Sri Lanka Armed Services. Therefore, I make this an occasion to invite military personnel scattered throughout the country to register themselves for KDU courses so that they can now realize their higher educational dreams without much difficulties.

I would also like to invite KDU academia to be empowered by familiarising yourselves with the utilisation of m-learning facilities. It is your dedication and commitment that will eventually make this new experience a worthwhile one for prospective students. And it is your commitment that will help KDU to achieve its target of becoming one of the best universities in Asia soon. I am sure you have the strength and willpower necessary for the same. We are doing our utmost to provide you with the best and the most up-to-date technology, infrastructure, resources, and training required for the same. As I often say, “sky is the limit” if you are determined to set and achieve goals.

Finally, let me thank Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel for your collaborative effort to work with us, and I am sure you will join hands with us in many more events of this sort in the future, which will be beneficial for our motherland. Thank you.

6. Address at Official Launch of Advanced Diploma Course in Human Rights at University of Colombo on 23.04.2012

Honourable Chief Guest Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Secretary, Ministry of Defence and Urban Development; the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission, Justice Priyantha RP Perera; Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo Prof Kshanika Hirimburegama; Members of the Human Rights Commission, distinguished invitees, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon!

At the outset, I would like to thank the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka for inviting me to address this august assembly at the College House gathered here for the official launch of the Advanced Diploma Course in Human Rights, the significance of which is evident in the presence of the distinguished personalities taking part in this event here today. I am particularly glad that the HRC has invited General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University to be its collaborative partner in planning and conducting a course on Human Rights.

Ladies and gentlemen, today we are living in a country that has seen the light of peace. But, most of us still have in our minds vivid memories of the dark era of conflict, the era that we all have painfully passed. We, as a nation, have passed a period of time in which we could not even talk about human rights, mainly because of the ruthless terrorism which blatantly violated human rights of the citizens of this country. It was a time when every Sri Lankan lived in abject fear and uncertainty. We were negated of our freedom of speech, movement, expression, life, and even of our freedom of thought. So, let us together pay our tribute to everyone involved even in a minute way to end that dark and gloomy period of terror that engulfed the nation for thirty long years annihilating our human rights.

Today, we are able to rediscover our roots, the culture that we proudly inherit, one in which even the rights of animals were respected to the highest possible degree. While identifying norms, practices, and principles that our ancestors upheld, it is also necessary, in the present global scenario, to be educated in what the modern world has identified as Human Rights, and as human right violations, due to two reasons. Firstly, it is necessary to know about universally accepted Human Rights in order to prevent our own rights being violated by any individual, organization, or country. Secondly, it is even more important because being ignorant about human rights makes us vulnerable in the face of those who use the knowledge of the same

to attack and weaken us and our nation as a part of their strategies to achieve ulterior motives.

So, in the same phase that we try to enrich our knowledge in science, technology, military and other useful areas of knowledge, we do need to strengthen ourselves with a sound knowledge of human rights in order to safeguard our nation from forces, whether internal or external, that might try to unsettle us due to various objectives.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me quote Eleanor Roosevelt, onetime first lady of the USA. She said:

Basically we could not have peace, or an atmosphere in which peace could grow, unless we recognized the rights of individual human beings... their importance, their dignity... and agreed that was the basic thing that had to be accepted throughout the world.

No doubt we all acknowledge that peace would prevail only when we avoid conflict. If and when we recognize and respect the rights of individual human beings, the room for conflict becomes minimal. This is true of a family, a community, a country or of the entire world. Accordingly, it is necessary to identify, respect and uphold the rights of other communities living in a country. Extended to the global perspective, each country should identify and respect the individuality and the rights of its fellow countries whether they are big or small in physical size or economic power, if it really desires to foster peace in the world.

In the present context, we are facing a paradoxical situation, where some countries preach about the sanctity of an individual's human rights, whilst failing to understand, perhaps deliberately, to respect the rights of individual countries; they preach a doctrine that "the might is not the right." Yet, in practice they use their might against the rights of individual countries in diverse ways. It is in this context that recent charges against Sri Lanka of violation of human rights become paradoxical and thereby unreasonable and unacceptable.

Ladies and gentlemen, the defeating of the LTTE was for the protection of the people of Sri Lanka irrespective of their caste, creed or race. And anyone with a fair conscience knows that this victory over terror has ensured human rights of every individual living in this country. Hence, the claim that Sri Lankan armed forces have violated human rights during the last lap of the humanitarian operations is unjustifiable. We must realize that behind these charges are pro-LTTE lobbyists in the west who capitalize on geo-political and economic realities facing different

countries. They do so in order to accomplish their agendas for jeopardizing our attempt to consolidate the peace gained through immense sacrifices and dedication of the armed forces. Our responsibility as a nation today, therefore, is to be well versed with the principles of human rights, so that we can use them to safeguard and enhance the hard earned peace and freedom in our country, and more importantly, to arm ourselves to face possible future threats and assaults using what I would call “soft armament” like the allegations of human right violations which may destabilize the country providing a breeding ground for destructive elements to get established once more. Ladies and gentlemen, we must be well aware that we have suffered too much for too long to fall back into a similar era of suffering and frustration in the future.

Today, certain elements try to argue that the armed forces in Sri Lanka are still holding onto the North East areas. They try to show that armed forces, and through them, the government of Sri Lanka are suppressing the human rights of the people of the North and East areas. But, it should be understood that the role of the armed forces has not ended after the military victory, and we are involved in a different phase of the humanitarian operations under the leadership and guidance of the Secretary Defence, Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa. I believe that we as a country need to make the international community understand that we are still fighting to consolidate the rights of the people of the north and the east, by resettling them, and providing them shelter and decent infrastructure facilities. All these are human rights that we are trying to ensure for our citizens living in the war affected areas. We are fighting to give our fullest to rehabilitate former LTTE cadres training them for a decent livelihood through well-planned rehabilitation programmes. The ultimate goal of these activities is to assist the government to achieve sustainable peace through its reconciliation, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and resettlement process undertaken under the determined leadership of His Excellency the President. And achievements made so far in these lines in a very short period of time have been highly satisfactory.

In a situation where the international community lacks objectivity and is pressurising the government of Sri Lanka to carry out LLRC recommendations, the promotion and protection of human rights was already taking place. We, Sri Lankans are kind enough to accept former terrorists as human beings who have a capacity to change, and we rehabilitate them instead of persecuting for being in an enemy army.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is in this context that we at General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University consider that it is our responsibility to contribute in the domain of higher education for the empowerment of our nation in knowledge in diverse

fields of expertise. KDU has changed its academic programmes introducing new degree programmes like Law and Medicine as a part of our national responsibility.

So, as I initially mentioned, we are glad to be involved in disseminating knowledge on human rights due to several reasons. Firstly, we have academic experts with a sound knowledge of human rights, fundamental rights and their theoretical perspectives. Secondly, KDU has the capacity to tap the experience of military officers who were directly involved in the battlefield maximally safeguarding human rights while bravely fighting to free the country from terrorism that did not have even a scant respect for human life, let aside other human rights – Further, these officers have undergone mandatory training in relation to human rights including an aspect of International Humanitarian Law and law of the armed conflicts. The whole process is supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross. Hence, it is understandable that the Sri Lankan armed forces do not grope in the dark in relation to the human rights situation – These officers are equipped with knowledge and experience in handling tough situations in an unprecedented type of war against terrorism – Incidentally, it is this uniqueness of our scenario that makes it difficult for some gurus of human rights to understand the complexities of the application of human rights under trying circumstances. Thirdly, KDU has changed its perspectives in military education to suit different responsibilities of the armed forces in post conflict Sri Lanka. Particularly, with the establishment of the Faculty of Law and the introduction of the LLB and LLM degree programmes, we give a significant place for disseminating knowledge on International Humanitarian Law and the Law of the Armed Conflict, which had of course been a part of any degree programme at KDU even before. Further, it should be noted that we are now ready to share our expertise with mainstream institutions in higher education both local and foreign. So, we believe that collaborative efforts of this nature will enable us to go for further opportunities to enhance the quality of higher education in Sri Lanka.

Further, the Defence University has the legitimacy for conducting human rights courses because of the role of the armed forces as guardians of the nation that undertake military and intelligence activities. In fact, they play a fundamental role in the protection and promotion of human rights because the ultimate result of their activities is the provision of a proper and peaceful living condition for all citizens that in turn ensures their human rights.

To this end, each and every activity undertaken by a service or police person has a direct link with the promotion of human rights. But while the violations alleged to have taken place during such activities are overly emphasized, and the role played by the armed forces in promoting human rights is purposefully downplayed for

obvious reasons which I do not want to take time to analyse at the present moment as you all are well aware of them.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate the importance of conducting courses like this for promoting human rights education and training in Sri Lanka with the broader perspective of safeguarding and enhancing the hard earned peace, harmony and liberty in the motherland. Thank you.

7. Address at Inauguration of Staff Development Centre at KDU on 10.05.2012

Chief Guest Prof Kshanika Hirimburegama, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Defence Brig Lal Gunasekara, Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic, Prof Ravindra Koggalage, Deans of Faculties, Heads of Departments, Academics, Officers and participants, good morning!

At the outset, let me warmly welcome Prof Kshanika Hirimburegama as the chief guest this morning. Professor, I am sure that your presence on this important occasion of the inauguration of our Staff Development Course is a great inspiration for the participants of this course. Ladies and gentlemen, I am extremely glad to address you on this memorable occasion of the inauguration of our own Staff Development Programme at KDU, a long awaited need for achieving self-sufficiency as a University.

Professor Hirimburegama, we have so far been depending on the Staff Development Programmes of Colombo, Kelaniya and Peradeniya universities to train our staff. But, with the recent growth and development of our university, the number of courses and hence the number of academic staff have increased considerably, and therefore it has become a matter of paramount importance to introduce our own staff development programme at KDU.

Accordingly, several months ago, I requested my staff to study the possibility of launching our own SDC, and I am extremely glad that they have obliged my request, and today it has become a reality. I believe that this introduction of a Staff Development Course will be a giant step forward in our march towards success as a tertiary education institution in Sri Lanka.

Further, this course should not be limited to KDU staff alone. Instead, we should target at attracting participants from other universities and higher educational institutions as well. In this context, I must emphasize on the need for us to introduce innovative devices, methods, and systems targeting the overall improvement of the quality of education.

Ladies and gentlemen, a university's achievements are based largely on the contribution, commitment, and achievements of the members of its staff, working individually or collectively. Therefore, staff development becomes a key factor for the success of individuals and ultimately for the success of the university as a

whole. This is important for the university to gain, enhance, and maintain its national and international reputation in teaching and research and also in ensuring good management within the institution.

We, at KDU, have recognised the fact that the quality of our academic staff is fundamental to the success of our university. Therefore, we have also recognised the need for a strategic and professional approach to develop our staff. This, we believe, will help our university to attract and retain high-caliber staff with skills and competencies necessary to achieve the mission and objectives of the university.

It is my understanding that staff development refers to all the policies, practices, and procedures used to develop the knowledge, skills, and competencies of staff to improve the effectiveness and efficiency both of the individual and of the university. It also includes any activity which contributes to the enhancement of their knowledge, skills, competencies, or working practices. Therefore, our intention and expectation is that the course that we are inaugurating today would address these areas of training and that it would go further in training them in areas that are particularly necessary for academics in a defence university where discipline, punctuality, personality, and leadership are considered essential. In fact, this is the main reason why we need a SDC of our own. We, being a unique university that deals with a different type of a student population, need a staff trained in aspects that are specific to our academic and working environment. At KDU, in addition to giving an exposure to academic studies, we try to mould young officer cadets to be strong military leaders. Even the civilian day-scholars are moulded in this unique environment to develop better personalities so that they can face challenges in their respective professional fields.

Ladies and gentlemen, in the face of the developments in Information Technology in the modern high-tech era, tertiary education today has vastly changed its perspectives in every aspect of teaching, learning and research. Many doors and avenues for higher education are open for modern learners. Therefore, it has become necessary for us to engage in healthy competition against other institutions both local and foreign in order to attract learners. Universities must continue to enhance their status, and similarly academics must continue to enhance their professional growth.

It is in this sense that we emphasise our commitment to provide our staff with the best possible opportunities for their career development so that individual members of our academic staff can maximally contribute to the development of their departments, faculties, university, the country and finally to the world. So our intentions are noble and it is the responsibility of the participants to make the best

use of the given opportunity to set and achieve ambitious goals for their personal benefits as well as for the benefit of the humanity at large.

In conclusion, let me thank the Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Prof Hirimburegama for graciously accepting our invitation to deliver the keynote address on this memorable occasion. Professor, you have always been a well-wisher of the Defence University, and we request you for further support and cooperation in our future endeavours as well. I would also like to congratulate the Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof Koggalage and the Dean Faculty of Law Dr Prathiba Mahanamahewa and their staff for their initiative in organising this programme at KDU. Finally, let me wish the first set of participants in this Staff Development Course all the very best and success in their future endeavours.

Ladies and gentlemen let me now introduce our keynote speaker Professor Hirimburegama.

Professor Kshanika Kumari Hirimburegama is the daughter Dr Punchi Bandara Sannasgala, the well known academic and researcher on Sinhala language, Sinhala literature, Pali and Sanskrit. Professor Hirimburegama is the fourth out of the five daughters born to the Sannasgala family and she received her early education at Visakha Vidyalaya, Colombo.

She entered the University of Colombo in 1977 and specialised in Botany. She then entered the Post Graduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA), Peradeniya and passed out in 1985 with her Masters in Agricultural Sciences. In the same year she left for Belgium to join the Catholic University of Leuven for her PhD. She returned to Sri Lanka in 1989 and joined the Botany Department, University of Colombo as a Senior Lecturer in January, 1990. She was later made the Head of the Plant Sciences Department before she was appointed as the Vice-Chancellor in January, 2008 and she is a Member of the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka. Conducting research on tissue culture, especially on bananas she developed the tissue culture technology for banana and transferred the technology to the rural sector. She was instrumental in establishing a research institution for this purpose at Weligatta, Hambantota. Professor, the floor is yours to address the gathering.

8. Address at Intake 28 Parents' Day on 26.05.2011

Venerable Members of the Clergy, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Director of the Institute of Postgraduate Studies, Director of Academic Studies, Dean of the Faculty of Defence Studies, Registrar, Adjutant, Lecturers, Military Officers, Others Ranks, Dear Parents, Officer Cadets, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning to you.

Today, we are gathered here, to celebrate the Parents' Day of Intake 28. This is yet another important day for General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, especially for the officer cadets of intake 28.

Dear parents, in my capacity as the Vice Chancellor of this unique university, and on behalf of all the members of the faculties, I warmly welcome all of you to General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University. I am sure that it is an honour for us to be with you today when we consider your brave and intelligent decision to let your children join KDU to serve the motherland.

First, I would like to remember the alumni of our university who valiantly fought hand in hand with the other military officers to free our country from the brutal terrorism which had been destroying the invaluable Sri Lankan lives for three decades. We are proud of them and on this occasion we pay our tribute to them as well as other heroes who paid the supreme sacrifice for the protection of the territorial integrity of our beloved Mother Lanka.

After the end of terrorism, our country is in a steady process to achieve the status of a prominent and developed country in Asia. It is the duty of all citizens of Sri Lanka to contribute their skills and knowledge to achieve this target. The role of the military personnel in this regard is second to none. Therefore, being the one and only Defence University in Sri Lanka, our university has to play a pivotal role in expediting the development process of our country facing the challenges ahead of us. By looking at the successful performances of our officer cadets it is obvious that it is not an uphill task and the expected results will be achieved soon.

Recently, our university expanded its degree programmes to cater to different needs of the tri-services. We established a medical faculty in 2008 and a law faculty in 2010. The 28th Intake is the first batch which consists of the first set of law stream officer cadets. It is indeed a pleasure to witness that KDU has become a well-established university in the country which offers degrees in the fields of engineering, medicine, law, management and technical sciences, logistic management and social sciences.

Dear parents, on 23rd September 2010, your sons and daughters joined KDU as officer cadets of the 28th Intake. Since then these young men and women have been engaged in academic studies and military training relevant to their degree programmes. Today is a very special day for them because they will show you how well they have been converted from young school leavers almost eight months ago to be a set of skilful and matured young men and women who are determined to play their role efficiently and effectively by keeping the Motto of KDU “For the Motherland Forever” in their minds.

The Parents’ Day gives you a very good opportunity to witness how your sons and daughters have been spending their time in the University. You will be able to meet their lecturers, academic and military instructors and many others involved in their training. It is true that young men and women are strong and active, but to become fully-fledged military officers, sheer physical strength is not enough. Physically fit young men or women need remarkable personalities and superb mental strengths to be commissioned as officers of the three armed services in Sri Lanka. Training the raw young school leavers to be responsible citizens should be done methodically, tactfully and even delicately. Therefore, the role of the trainers is unique. As the Vice Chancellor, I am proud to have such worthy faculty members on our staff to achieve the task of grooming young school leavers to be eminent citizens in the country. Today you will be able to see for yourselves how your beloved children have expanded their horizons under the guidance of our staff.

On the day your sons and daughters were enlisted to the University, they started a long journey. Today is one important juncture in their journey. Within a short period they have learnt the basics of military lives. Yet, they have to learn more. I believe they will be able to complete their journeys as expected. As parents, your blessings and caring are as important as the academic and military education provided by the University.

You may have had regretful feelings whenever you consider about the hardships and commitments that military personnel experience in their tour of duty. All your sad feelings will definitely disappear when you witness the remarkable change of your beloved children. Dear mothers, fathers and loved ones of the officer cadets of Intake 28, please be assured that these young men and women are trained not only to face crisis situations successfully but also to ensure their own as well as their subordinates’ survival.

On this occasion, I make this opportunity to share a few ideas with young officer cadets of Intake 28 as food for their thoughts. Dear officer cadets, even though you

are conferred with a degree and commissioned as an officer, the presentation of your knowledge ethically and socially to your subordinates, your superiors and as a whole to the society in which you live will establish your position in your careers. As a man or a woman you must be trustworthy and honourable. At the same time you must have a proper understanding of yourselves. Overestimation and underestimation are your enemies. Awareness is the key for success. It gives you a balanced mentality. Such a man or a woman will be gifted with sound decision making capabilities. This will help you to execute your duties for the utmost satisfaction of both your superiors and subordinates. In addition to that, all these aspects make you become a worthy citizen for the society you live in. In other words you will be identified as an esteemed Lady or a Gentleman.

When we browse through the annals of our history we meet great men and women who earned greatness by standing up courageously to face any crises. Because of their stance our country was saved from external and internal threats. Dear officer cadets, this is your turn to prove that worthy men and women of such calibre are still living in this beautiful country. So I wish that the officer cadets of Intake 28 would be professionally qualified and would have the courage and endurance to be the best of the best in society and to be worthy servicemen and servicewomen ready to face any difficult situation to safeguard the motherland.

Finally, I will be failing in my duties if I do not pay my gratitude to the people who were behind the organization of this grand Parents' Day. I thank all of you for the hard work done to make this event a success. I wish all the success for the day and may today's memories be cherished forever.

9. Address at Inauguration of MBA in Logistics Management Degree Programme on 07.06.2012

Mr Jayantha Wickramasinghe, Deputy Vice Chancellor(Defence), Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Dean Faculty of Graduate Studies, Dean Faculty of Defence Studies, Dean Faculty of Engineering, Dean Faculty of Medicine, Dean Faculty of Law and Acting Dean Faculty of Management, Humanities and Social Sciences, members of the academia, Registrar, Adjutant, Officers of the Tri-Services and the Police, ladies and gentlemen,

Good Morning!

At the outset let me warmly welcome the Chief Executive Officer of the well-known Lanka Logistics and Technologies Limited, Mr Jayantha Wickramasinghe for being here to grace this occasion as the Chief Guest. Mr Wickramasinghe, I express my sincere gratitude to you for accepting our invitation despite your busy schedule. Also, I wish to extend a warm welcome to all student officers present here, having been qualified to follow the inaugural MBA in Logistics Management Programme at KDU, and I congratulate you on your achievement.

Ladies and gentlemen, KDU organized this MBA programme mainly as a response to a request made by the naval headquarters in view of the increasing demand and requirement for officers trained in this important area of specialization, Logistics Management – Earlier the Navy used to send their officers to India to follow a Master’s programme in Naval Logistics, and due to the increasing numbers it has become non-viable to do so now.

In drawing up the curriculum for our MBA in Logistics Management programme, KDU has thoroughly perused the Indian Naval Logistics curriculum as well as other MBA programmes conducted in Sri Lanka and abroad. Hence our programme incorporates all salient features of those programmes, and it will no doubt provide a very important capsule for logistics managers in the military, public sector, and private sector organizations in Sri Lanka.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am not going to dwell much on the importance of being qualified in logistics management, since our chief guest Mr Jayantha Wickramasinghe is here to speak to you on “The Importance of Logistic Management and its relevance to Military, Public and Private sector” in his

keynote address shortly. However, I would like to mention a few thoughts about the subject as a prelude to his speech.

Logistics Management is considered to be extremely important for the success of military ventures. That is why in the military parlance we say that “100% logistics mean 50% victory.” This shows the extent to which proper logistics management is required for military success. In fact, this identification is one of the main reasons behind the historical victory that our forces recently registered against an enemy outfit that was thought to be invincible, the LTTE.

However, I believe that logistics management is important not only in times of conflict. It is equally important in times of peace. It helps to maximize productivity through the enhancement of efficiency and minimization of waste. Look at, for instance, the successful implementation of the urban development programmes carried out in the Colombo municipal area. I believe that it is a very good example that shows the importance of the knowledge and practice of the principles of logistics management. So, it is evident that logistics management is going to play a vital role in the country’s march towards development. It is in this respect that the programme of study that we are launching at KDU today will assume significance. And that is why we have opened it for officers of the public and private sector as well.

Ladies and gentlemen, KDU has planned to get the services of the best resource personnel to conduct lectures in this programme. We make every effort to assure that our course will give you the best in terms of knowledge and expertise in logistics management. Further, we have identified your professional commitments and made it possible for you to get yourselves involved in the programme using our m-learning platform even when you are on the move or when you are abroad. So, I should emphasize that it is your responsibility to follow this course diligently and be qualified logistics managers who can face any challenge in the field. I should specially emphasize that in the case of military officers, respective service headquarters contribute 60% of your course fee amidst heavy constraints, and hence the need for studying hard. Also remember that KDU being a member of the Commonwealth Universities Association, your scope of study has no limits and its affiliations will provide you an opportunity to venture into areas beyond Sri Lankan tertiary education, if you are so determined. So, our expectation is that you will learn and practice the concepts and procedures learnt in whatever the place you work at. The end result would be maximization of resources, reduction of wastage and enhancement of productivity in your organizations.

Finally, let me conclude expressing my hope that you all will work with dedication, commitment and interest to ensure the successful completion of the programme within the stipulated time frame. May the fruits of our efforts to enhance your professional qualifications eventually contribute for a better tomorrow for the future generations in Sri Lanka.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me now take this opportunity to briefly introduce to you our Chief Guest, Mr Jayantha Wickramasinghe.

Mr Jayantha Wickramasinghe has been the Chief Executive Officer of Lanka Logistics and Technologies Limited (LLTL) from its inception in October 2006. LLTL is a company wholly owned by the government of Sri Lanka. This company was established to facilitate procurement of military hardware and services from overseas manufacturers and service providers on a government to government basis for the institutions coming under the purview of the Ministry of Defence and Urban Development. LLTL also represents the interests of such overseas organizations in Sri Lanka. At present LLTL's focus is to implement projects with national security implications. Mr Wickremasinghe is also serving as a Director of the Urban Development Authority.

Mr Jayantha Wickramasinghe had his primary and secondary education at Ananda College, Colombo. He pursued his higher studies in the field of Accountancy in the United Kingdom. On his return to Sri Lanka, Mr Wickramasinghe ventured into business. He established Sri Lanka's first Digital Wide Area Paging Network in 1989 and was the Managing Director of a group of companies which specialized in the provision of Radio Engineering and Telecommunication solutions. These companies represented several reputed international telecommunication service providers and equipment manufacturers. He is also the Managing Director of a Polythene Film Extrusion Company.

Mr Jayantha Wickramasinghe was the Secretary of the Telecom Providers Association, which is the apex body of the licensed operators in the telecommunications industry. He was a Board Member of the Sri Lanka Information & Communication Technology Association, membership based umbrella body of ICT related trade associations and professional bodies.

He was also a Director of the Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) of Sri Lanka which is the single Government apex body involved in ICT policy and direction for the nation.

Mr Jayantha Wickramasinghe was a Past President of the Sri Lanka - Canada Business Council which functions under the guidance of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and a Past President of the Rotary Club of Colombo down town.

Now I would like to call upon Mr Jayantha Wickramasinghe for the key note address. Over to you Mr Wickremasinghe

10. Welcoming MBBS Students to Intake 30 on 01.08.2012

Deputy Vice Chancellor Defence, Brig Lal Gunasekara; Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic, Prof Ravi Koggalage; Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Prof Thilak Weerasuriya; Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Brig Nishantha Wadugodapitiya; Dean Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies, Col Udaya Herath; Members of Faculties; newly enlisted 4th batch of military medical students of Intake 30, Parents, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning!

As the Vice Chancellor, I warmly welcome all of you to General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, and I take this opportunity to congratulate you on being selected to follow the 4th MBBS programme of the university.

You can consider yourselves extremely fortunate to get the rare opportunity of reading for an MBBS at this prestigious Defence University. The reason is that you had to undergo a very intricate selection process to get selected to KDU. Because of the very demanding and competitive nature of the selection process, sometimes the results might not be the ones you expected. There were a few who made it through the first hurdle but were not able to manage to make the final cut while some in the reserve list performed exceptionally well and made it through.

To those who did not make it through, I would like to say that they fought well. My message for them is that this is not the end of their lives, and different avenues will open up for them in the future. I hope they would go out and improve their standards and charter their own course. I wish all the best of luck in their career paths.

Dear Officer Cadets, today is going to be a significant and a memorable day in your lives and career due to several reasons. Firstly, I am sure, you are thrilled and excited to follow an MBBS degree programme and your much awaited dream has come true. Secondly, you are launching yourselves, today, into a field of study that will lead you to the noble profession of medicine. Thirdly, and most importantly, you are entering to cadetship to join the equally or even more noble profession of arms. So there is every reason why you should be proud of yourselves and consider this day a very significant milestone in your lives.

You must be aware that after the successful completion of the MBBS degree programme, you will not only become fully qualified medical practitioners but also be commissioned as Officers of the Sri Lanka Army, Navy or Air Force. So, in the

future you will be able to serve the nation as military medical practitioners of the world's most successful armed forces in recent times. So be proud of it.

In the first phase of your training, you will be undergoing an intensive training programme in which you will get an opportunity to learn basic English language skills, IT skills, and basic military skills, all three of which are essential for your future success in your profession of arms. So learn the basics well. That will take you a long way. It is our hope that this training would lay a solid foundation for you to follow your degree programme successfully. Your English language skills would particularly be essential for following the degree programme in the medium of English, and therefore you must acquire those skills with diligence and commitment. Similarly, your basic military training is a must as it will gradually convert you from your civil life to the military life that you have opted for. Then of course, you will be guided through the subjects of medicine by the well qualified and dedicated members of the Faculty of Medicine.

We always endeavour to provide you the best of facilities and resources at KDU. But also keep in mind the financial constraints and other difficulties. We have taken many steps to overcome these constraints and are on the track to provide you with many world class facilities. The new teaching hospital is in its final stages, and we are now the proud owners of a skills lab of a caliber that is unmatched by that of any other Sri Lankan university.

Officer Cadets of the fourth batch of military medical students – you have another responsibility. I should say rather, a privilege. You will be the first batch to have a large contingent of foreign students in your midst. There will be 40 students from countries such as, China, Bhutan and the Maldives, who will join you as day-scholars. Each one of you will be an ambassador of Sri Lankan hospitality. Each of you will be assigned a foreign student to facilitate their transition to fit in with KDU's standards and culture. You must establish and maintain cordial relations with these students ensuring that they feel comfortable and welcome in our university and in your programme of study.

There are a few more points to remember. One is that you are being paid to learn. What does that mean? You are paid by the government, which means you are getting public money for your studies, and therefore you have a special responsibility to learn well. You should always maintain high standards in everything you do. Also remember that discipline is of utmost importance. Those who break rules will face the danger of being discharged from KDU. Also, you must always be concerned about your physical fitness and health. So, make the best use of the facilities offered by KDU to stay fit and healthy. You should never be

worried if you have a low Z score. Forget your past and be determined to produce best results through dedication to your studies. Whenever you have any problem, consult your Squadron Commander, Troop Commander or any member of the Faculty. They are there to help you.

Once again let me remind you that your endeavour should be to become role models in the profession of medicine and create a different culture based on ethics and always act as per the oath that you take. Determine not to deviate from that. Demonstrate your leadership qualities, managerial skills and character in your day today activities, show that you are a different set of students and help others always.

Finally, I wish that your stay at KDU would be a very happy, memorable and above all a highly productive one that would mould you into Officer Cadets ready for achieving the expected goals of the University. Happy cadet life and soldiering! Good Luck! Thank You.

11. Address at IDM Convocation 2012 on 14.08.2012

Chairman IDM Group of companies, Dr Bandu Ranasinghe; Associate Dean University of Wolverhampton UK, Dr Anne Lathem; other distinguished guests; dear graduands and parents.

First of all I would like to thank the authorities of the IDM affiliated campus for inviting me to be the chief guest at your convocation, and I congratulate all graduands who are about to be conferred with degrees today.

As I got to know, this is the 23rd convocation of the IDM affiliated campus, and I realize that over the past two decades or so IDM has produced thousands of very useful graduates to the nation and to the world at large, which I believe is a very significant service for the growth of the all-important field of IT education in Sri Lanka and elsewhere. As the Vice Chancellor of the only Defence University in the region, I am well aware of the significance of a sound knowledge of IT for our youths, particularly in our attempt to make Sri Lanka the knowledge hub in Asia. Therefore, I would like to appreciate the initiative taken by Dr Bandu Ranasinghe to establish a tertiary education institute for IT education in Sri Lanka, and I congratulate him for successfully completing 23 years of valuable service to the nation. I am sure that there must be some of your alumni as eminent personalities in the field of IT in Sri Lanka and abroad.

With the opening up of the higher education field to the private sector many institutions have come up in diverse fields of education. Yet, the sheer fact that IDM campus has existed for more than two decades proves that it provides very high quality education in the field of IT.

With my experience in the field of university education, I truly believe in the importance of providing high quality education, as it is only such education that can produce a generation capable of handling the future of our nation. As it was pointed out by Mr Lalith Weeratunga, Secretary to His Excellency the President at our international symposium last year the number of experts in IT required for the country is far above the numbers produced by the tertiary education system of Sri Lanka, and hence the need for producing more and more IT graduates and also graduates of the highest caliber in peripheral areas such as software and hardware engineering.

Dear graduands, as IT graduates you must be aware of the influence of ICT on affairs of the contemporary world where a person without computer literacy is almost an illiterate person. So those who are graduated today will be getting the

authority or, I should say, an opportunity to reengineer the flow of the country with the latest technologies which would smoothen the diverse processes in the rapid development projects taking place in the country.

Another imperative factor that I must emphasize is the need for local higher educational institutes like yours to get affiliated with foreign universities for providing the most up-to-date and high quality educational opportunities for our students. As I got to know the University of Wolverhampton and the University of Greenwich, UK are playing a major role in IDM's programmes and as they are leading universities in the UK, their collaboration with you is a highly useful one. I think it is our duty to encourage such universities to enter into collaborations with other local higher educational institutions as well because the UK has always been keen to provide the highest quality education wherever they function in the world. So, we are sure that you the graduands have been very fortunate to have an exposure to high quality education while being on your own soil. Further, I would like to thank these two universities for giving their fullest support to the IDM to provide high quality IT courses for our citizens.

Dear graduands, from today you will become an important entity in our society, and it is your responsibility to provide a proper and valuable contribution to our society with your education. You should also develop balanced personalities and work as balanced human beings. You can add glamour to your knowledge and skills by inculcating sound attitudes towards life and work. So be ready to do your best service to whatever organization you would be destined to work for as disciplined individuals. It is for such people of highest commitment, dedication and discipline that even unimaginable opportunities will open up, and I would like, at this point, to invite some of you to apply for opportunities at KDU, and we are always ready to welcome you if you satisfy our requirements.

Ladies and gentlemen, I always believe in the saying "healthy mind in a healthy body." So, I would like to request you to always try and maintain a mental and physical balance by engaging yourselves in some kind of sports so that you will delay old age and enjoy life in the best possible way to achieve the cherished goals and objectives of your lives.

Think about your motherland and conceptualize how best you can contribute to the national development of your motherland with the valuable education you have received. It is only then you will be able to reach the evening of your lives as contented human beings who have done their bit to the world.

Take this as another beginning of your life, explore your knowledge, get used to a research life, do experiments, be innovative and step on to the other level of your

academic life and climb up the ladder of education which may take yourselves to an elite level. But, always think of what you could do to the country and not the other way around.

Let me conclude by congratulating all of you once again for your academic achievement. And let me congratulate the parents of the graduands who are here today to witness the glory of their children's lives. Finally, let me wish IDM all the very best in their future endeavors. Thank you.

12. Address at KDU International Symposium 2012 on 22.08.2012

Distinguished members of the audience, ladies and gentlemen, it is my greatest pleasure to deliver the welcome and introductory address of the KDU international Symposium 2012.

First, it is a great honour for me to welcome our chief guest and keynote speaker, Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Secretary Defence and the Chairman of the BOM, KDU. Sir, I am grateful to you for accepting our invitation and for being here to grace the occasion of this inaugural ceremony of this two day symposium.

Next, I warmly welcome Your Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps, the Tri Forces Commanders and Senior Officers, the Inspector General of Police, the Chairman of the University Grants Commission, Vice Chancellors and distinguished academics from other universities, and especially the renowned professors, scholars, and very eminent personalities representing the USA, China, India, New Zealand, and Pakistan. And I warmly welcome all the presenters and participants whose contribution will be crucial for the success of the KDU Symposium 2012.

Ladies and gentlemen, we consider that the theme of this symposium “Ensuring National Security through Reconciliation and Sustainable Development” is highly pertinent for intellectual pursuit at the present juncture of our country to ensure its future stability as a nation, and it is equally relevant to any country with national security concerns.

Considering the Sri Lankan context, it is clear that our internal security cannot be fully ensured without ensuring reconciliation and harmony between communities of people that had been artificially torn apart by the 30 year long conflict, which only fostered mutual suspicion, distrust, and hatred among its ethnic communities. Hence, Sri Lanka should invariably focus attention on reconciliatory measures to ensure harmonious coexistence among the composite parties of the Sri Lankan nation, Tamils, Muslims, Burghers, Malays and Sinhalese. And I believe that once achieved, such reconciliation should be cemented and consolidated through constitutional means – a paramount need for maintaining national security.

Also the national security of a country like ours cannot be ensured without the concerted effort of individuals in different communities, united in diversity, to the

development of the motherland. And this development should be a sustainable one as we are living in a world where resources are continuously depleting and consumers of the limited resources are rapidly increasing – a situation that causes both internal and external threats for a country’s national security. And conversely, we cannot even imagine about development, sustainable or otherwise, without the national security of the country being strongly established.

Therefore, it is patently clear that, in our context, the three concepts, national security, reconciliation, and sustainable development are inextricably interconnected, and one cannot be realized without the other. So, I firmly believe that the deliberations at this symposium will broaden our horizons on these sometimes elusive phenomena, on measures to ensure their realization, and on possible challenges that we have to face therein, all in relation to diverse domains.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with this expectation that we organised several discipline-specific plenary sessions on Defence, Engineering, Medicine, Law, and Management, Social Sciences and Humanities – a multifaceted approach to encompass all possible areas of knowledge for ensuring the National Security of the country.

The technical sessions coming under these five plenary sessions will provide an opportunity for micro-level research presentations relevant to several sub themes, and the overall outcome of this symposium would give a clearer vision to ensure the much needed national security for our country while disseminating very important knowledge on national security concerns that would be useful for any other country in the world.

Ladies and gentlemen, on a retrospective note, our post independent era unfolds three major events that seriously threatened our national security – the growth of the youth unrest in the 60s into the 1971 insurgency, its recurrence in the late 80s, and the growth of ethnic disaffection of the Tamil minority into a separatist war, which almost devastated our country for more than 30 years.

Fortunately, under the unmatched and farsighted leadership of His Excellency the President Mahinda Rajapaksa and the Defence Secretary Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa – who happens to be our keynote speaker today – the country has managed to pull itself back from the disastrous situation, and today we heave a sigh of relief as a nation – a nation that is aspiring to become the Wonder of Asia.

However, despite the present stability of national defence, the question remains whether we are out of danger and fully secure as a nation. I am of the opinion that any country would be secure to the extent that it is vigilant to possible internal and external threats to its national security and to the extent to which it could identify potential threats and take preventive and proactive measures to curb such threats.

History teaches us that our responses to national security threats in the post independent scenario had generally been reactive and we had not seriously thought of proactive and sustainable projects to ensure our national security. We had complacently fallen into dormancy and taken things for granted while breeding grounds for destructive and disruptive elements continued to prevail. Internal threats and rather invisible external threats kept on gathering momentum and occasionally surfaced in the form of civil disturbances, racial riots, organized bank robberies, assassination of leaders and so on and finally culminated in major disruptions.

Understandably, the present scenario is much more complex. Threats to our national security today have no geographical limits; they operate locally, abroad, and even in the cyber space. Separatist ideologists and activists are pursuing different strategies to achieve their ulterior motives. Gladly however, despite complexities, today, Sri Lanka shows a lot of maturity, character, determination, resilience and application and it is ready to take proactive measures from many domains against possible threats.

The recently concluded highly successful army symposium is a proactive measure and it showed to the world the true picture of what happened during the humanitarian operation and the tremendous headway made in the last three years in the spears of rehabilitation, reconstruction, resettlement, and reconciliation.

KDU Symposium 2012 itself is a proactive measure that will enable us to delve deeper into the concepts of national security, reconciliation and sustainable development and how best we could ensure the national security of our country. Hence, I am sure the deliberations at this symposium will give further impetus to the present initiatives of the government of Sri Lanka for consolidating the peace achieved through great sacrifices of valuable lives and resources of the country.

Today, we are ready to take a new path. Like the legendary phoenix rising from the ashes, Sri Lanka is ready to fly again into a future that every individual of the country, irrespective of differences, can be proud of. It is for this effort that General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University is doing its utmost to extend its fullest support.

In conclusion, let me once again very warmly welcome all the dignitaries, intellectuals, and participants foreign and local and wish that the deliberations of this symposium would positively contribute for the well-being of our beloved motherland and for the betterment of mankind through the dissemination of important knowledge to produce a peaceful and secure world in which the law and order prevails. Thank you.

13. Welcome Address at Commemoration of 32nd Death Anniversary of General Sir John Kotelawala on 02.10.2012

Desamanya General JED Perera VSV D Litt (Honoris Causa) FCMI (UK) FIMgt (SL) ndc psc the founder and the former Chancellor of this university, Sir; the present Chancellor, General Rohan de S *Daluwaththa* WWV RWP RSP VSV USP LOM ndc psc, Sir; distinguished invitees; members of General Sir John Kotelawala Memorial Association; alumni of KDU; ladies and gentlemen, we are gathered here today to commemorate the 32nd death anniversary of the benefactor of this unique and magnificent university, Late General Sir Lionel John Kotelawala, Companion of Honour, Knight Commander of the British Empire, and Doctor of Law in order to reciprocate his magnanimous gesture of donating his much loved Kandawala estate for setting up this university 34 years ago.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in my capacity as the Vice Chancellor, I take this opportunity to welcome all of you to this solemn occasion. Further, I consider it fitting to share with you what we are today by revealing a glimpse of our achievements in recent times. Since its inception in 1980, our university has gradually developed into a prominent university in the country without losing its identity as the highest seat of learning in military and defence related education as the only defence university in Sri Lanka.

We have been able to update existing degree programmes to meet modern requirements, and further to introduce new programmes for both bachelor's and master's degrees identifying urgent demands of the tri-forces and the country. Today, our university has established several Faculties, namely the Faculties of Defence Studies, Medicine, Engineering, Law, Social Sciences, Management and Humanities, and also the Faculty of Graduate Studies, which runs various Bachelor's, Master's and PhD degree programmes.

We have been able to keep a giant step forward in setting up infrastructure facilities required for the expanding university in a very short period of time. Some of you who were here for this commemoration ceremony last year can witness the massive constructions that have come up within just a year's time.

We have been able to expand our services to the public and private sectors by giving opportunities for their cadres to read for bachelor's, master's and MPhil and PhD

level degrees at KDU. Last year, our services were expanded to civilians by introducing day-scholar programmes of Engineering and Law streams. Further, we are successfully on our way to attract foreign students for our degree programmes as well.

Therefore, I believe our late benefactor, if he lived today, would have been the happiest ever to witness the progress we have made at KDU in recent times. I am sure all well-wishers of KDU who are gathered here today too will be immensely proud to witness the tremendous development of our university within its short span of history.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me now have the honour to introduce our chief guest, the most befitting personality for this great occasion, who is none other than Dhesamanya General Dennis Perera, the former Chancellor and the pioneer of this university. Sir, let me first of all very cordially and respectfully welcome you to KDU and to the 32nd death anniversary of General Sir John Kotelawala with greatest gratitude for accepting our invitation and for being with us today. Your presence is encouraging and inspiring.

Ladies and gentlemen, giving a brief introduction of our Chief Guest is not an easy task since his achievements and contributions to our country are immense. Thirty years ago, General Denis Perera was the Commander of the Sri Lanka Army. He commanded the Army for exactly four years from 14 October 1977 to 13 October 1981. He was a military leader with a vision. As the Commander of the Army, he thought that the Armed Forces should have an Academy to train Officer Cadets both militarily and academically to face future challenges.

Today we are fortunate, as three decades ago, General Perera was able to persuade Sir John to donate his Kandawala Estate which is 48 acres in extent to set up this institute. We also remember with gratitude that General Perera paid the best possible gratitude to General Sir John Kotelawala by convincing the then President His Excellency JR Jayawardena to promote Sir John to the rank of General in his life time.

Kotelawala Defence University, then known as Academy was established on 01 October 1980 with the guidance and leadership of General Denis Perera as the then Commander of the Army. It is your vision and persevering commitment and enthusiasm that made this university a reality. Therefore, Sir, we reckon that you are a legend in the history of this unique institution.

Sir, being the founder of this institution, you can be extremely proud of KDU by looking at its immense progress, which I believe is a tribute to Sir John as well as to

you for your pioneering effort. Today, we pledge and assure to you that with the guidance of Secretary Defence Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa, and present Chancellor Rohan de S Daluwaththa, and tri-forces' Commanders, we will keep this university progressing and developing as per your expectations in the future as well. We are indeed indebted to you sir, and I am sure that all the officers who graduated from this university would pay their tribute to you with no reservation what so ever.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me highlight a few facts about General Dennis Perera's career in the Sri Lanka Army. General Denis Perera studied at St. Peters College, Colombo and was a keen sportsman. He joined the Sri Lanka Army on 11 October 1949 and served in the Army for 32 years and 04 days. He was commissioned to the Corps of Engineers on 02 August 1951 after his Officer Cadet training in Sandhurst, UK.

During his illustrious career in the Army, he held many key appointments including Commandant of the Army Training Centre, Area Commander-South, Area Commander - North, Director Operations, Chief of Staff of the Army and finally the Commander of the Army. He attended the staff officer course in Camberley, UK and National Defence College, India. He was the first Army officer to follow this course.

Some of his significant contributions in his illustrious career were raising the Commando Regiment, Women's Corps Regiment, establishment of SLMA, and designing of decorations, medals, and gallantry awards VSV and USP. He became the Commander of the Army on 14 October 1977, and I am one of the fortunate officers who served in the army 31 years ago when he was the Commander.

In order to recognize his wonderful contribution to the Army and the Nation, on his retirement he was appointed as Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to Australia with concurrent accreditation to New Zealand, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and all the Commonwealth States in the Pacific.

General Perera possesses the highest ideals and lives up to them. He is extremely proficient, exceptionally resourceful and always ready to act on his own initiative. He is always firm and decisive and he possesses a very strong and dynamic character. He also exerts a compelling influence over others who instinctively look to him for leadership. He is exceptional in commanding and in his distinguished personality. Sir, you are a role model for all of us in the Armed Forces.

Ladies and gentlemen, I take this opportunity to invite the chief guest of today's event with all due respect, Dhesamanya General Dennis Perera to address the gathering. Thank you.

14. Welcoming Day-Scholars for Intake 30 on 01.01.2013

Deputy Vice Chancellor Defence, Brig Lal Gunasekara; Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic, Prof Ravindra Koggalage; Dean Faculty of Graduate Studies, Brig Nishantha Wadugodapitiya; Dean Faculty of Medicine Prof Thilak Weerasuriya; Dean Faculty of Engineering, Prof Ranjith Perera; Dean Faculty of Law, Dr Prathiba Mahanamahewa; Dean Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Col (Dr) Thamashi Makuloluwa, Dean Faculty of Defence Studies, Lt Col Udaya Herath; Registrar, Mr Thissa Kariyawasam; Department Heads and other academics, officers, and newly selected students for Intake 30, good morning!

Ladies and Gentlemen of Intake 30, let me first welcome you all, Sri Lankans as well as international students, very warmly to General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University where you will spend the next three to four years of your lives in preparation of your future careers. Secondly, I would like to congratulate you on being selected to KDU, having competed with a large number of applicants for our degree programmes. Also I would like to thank you and your parents for the right and timely decision to select KDU for your higher studies.

Let me express a special word of welcome to the foreign students from the Maldives, Bhutan, and Nigeria. Ladies and gentlemen, I used the term “foreign students” to distinguish you from local students. But, keep in your mind that we at KDU do not treat you as “foreign”. We consider you as children of the KDU family and we will do everything possible to provide you with a near homely environment at KDU and in Sri Lanka. I request all other students to show them the warm hospitality that we Sri Lankans are known for.

Dear students, you represent the second batch of civilian students to be registered for degree programmes of this university, which was, until 2011, dedicated solely to the higher education needs of the armed forces in Sri Lanka. As you all may be aware, KDU, in a silent way, contributed to our historical victory over brutal terrorism that engulfed the nation for almost 30 years. We are proud that hundreds of KDU officers made a great contribution towards the much needed peace for our nation that we all are enjoying today.

Ladies and gentlemen, we were able to see that the day-scholar scheme was initiated last year as one of the outcomes of the peace that we have achieved in this country. Today, our interests and focus are different. So, KDU’s endeavour is to fulfill the demands of the nation and even to go beyond national boundaries to cater to the educational needs of our friendly nations. Sri Lanka as well as our friendly countries

need more and more young men and women like you, equipped with sound knowledge, proper attitudes, versatile skills and more than everything a sound discipline to take their countries forward. This is the main reason why we decided to go ahead with the day-scholar programme for civilian students in Sri Lanka and to extend the same to students from other countries as well to read for their degrees in a disciplined environment. Most of you will be studying in classes where there are cadet officers as well as some commissioned military officers which will be a novel experience for you all. Our belief and experience is that this is beneficial for both parties in many ways.

Dear students, I am sure that you are very happy to have been admitted to KDU and that you are full of expectations. However, you must remember that just because you are admitted to KDU and because you all have paid tuition fees for your course, it doesn't mean that you will automatically get your degrees. Instead, you will have to work very hard to earn your degrees. Education is not something that can be given on a plate. KDU will give you all necessary guidance, facilities, and resources. But, it is up to you to work hard and graduate yourselves with good classes.

Ladies and gentlemen! KDU is fast expanding in its scope of activities. We do not stay stagnant and sit back on our laurels. Ours is now a fully-fledged university with seven faculties – Medical, Law, Engineering, Management Social Sciences and Humanities, Allied Health Sciences, Defence and Strategic Studies and Graduate Studies.

We will be having our own state-of-the-art teaching hospital, which will be one of the best in Asia and it will be complete by 2015. In the same way our university is achieving a vast popularity nationally and internationally as one of the best universities in Sri Lanka and in the region. For many obvious reasons our degree programmes have been recognised by the University Grants Commission and we provide some of the best facilities a Sri Lankan university could offer for its students. The Engineering students will be given the much needed exposure for industrial training and our engineering degrees will soon get the IESL recognition. Students reading for LLB will, on graduation, be able to write for the final examination at Law College Sri Lanka and become fully-fledged Attorneys-at-Law.

Ladies and gentlemen, all degree programmes of KDU are benchmarked with those of internationally recognised universities and professional bodies. Some of the degree programmes such as Aeronautical Engineering, Marine Engineering, and Aircraft Maintenance Engineering degree programmes are offered only by KDU in Sri Lanka. KDU is always futuristic and we introduce new degree courses that will

have a higher demand in the national and international job market. For instance, with intake 30 we introduce BSc degrees in Mechatronic Engineering and Biomedical Engineering. Further, we introduce BSc programmes on Nursing, Medical Laboratory Sciences, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy and Radiography under the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences.

Dear students, today is an important day for you as you are embarking on a new career path. Therefore, you need to change your life style in order to adjust yourselves for the needs of higher education and to the different and disciplined environment at KDU. You will be engaging in your academic studies in a much more disciplined environment that will be free from political agendas and other interferences as experienced in other national universities.

I also have a message for your parents. Inform them that we will ensure you that you all will graduate on scheduled time and complete your degrees much before your counterparts in other universities. Also inform them that this university is unique because you will not experience ragging, strikes, student protests and all sort of antisocial and disturbing activities in this university.

Please keep that in your mind that if anyone of you resorts to such activities we will not hesitate to discharge you on disciplinary grounds as we do in the case of our officer cadets. But, I am confident that none of you will face such problems as your senior intake of civilian students has convinced us of the same.

I should also remind you, the new students that KDU cadets abide by the honour code "Cadets will not lie, cheat or steal, nor tolerate those who do." This honour code is very much valid for you all as well. So I request you to abide by the same with the amendment "KDU students will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor tolerate those who do."

Also we expect you to be engaged in a great deal of self-studies and research as innovative learners. You must aim at getting a class without being worried about your A/L results and Z scores. Do not have inferior complexes. Remember that you have been selected to follow your degree programs as we felt that you have the potential to do so. So, start working hard on a new footing from day one and prove your caliber by getting high grades in your continuous assessments and semester exams targeting a good class degree.

We always encourage healthy competition among all students. We will provide a 25% scholarship if you do well at semester end exams and qualify yourselves to be in the Dean's list of your respective faculties. And remember, if you become

eligible to be in the Vice Chancellor's list you will earn a 50% scholarship. So be determined to work hard and work extra hours to relieve your parents' financial burden by winning a scholarship.

Dear students, your parents, friends, relatives and all citizens of this country expect a lot from you. It is your responsibility to live up to their expectations. A highly qualified and experienced staff is here to help you to achieve your goals. You should approach your lecturers and instructors for any difficulties that you may face, because they are here to help you. If you are weak in certain subjects you may request for additional classes.

Our endeavour is to produce high quality, disciplined graduates, who will be positive minded and possessing leadership and managerial skills. Such graduates will be citizens of their respective country, who could enhance the productivity of their nations. However, be aware that you can achieve this only if you are committed and dedicated to your roles as students.

You also need to clearly understand the unique nature of this university. Please understand that our primary focus is to produce graduates for the armed forces, and you must very clearly understand the character and environment of the institution and adjust your behaviour accordingly. You will be studying together with commissioned and cadet officers. There will be some police officers too in the LLB programme. Therefore, you must keep it in mind that you do not disrupt the discipline of the establishment by any sort of unnecessary behavior. You must strictly adhere to our codes of ethics and conduct, by-laws and other regulations so that you can achieve your goals without any hindrance.

So please read through the instructional manual very carefully and adhere to the requirements therein fully. Of course we will assist you in all aspects to adjust yourselves to familiarize yourselves with the new environment.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we at KDU strive hard to produce all-round personalities and not just book worms. You are aware that a grave problem in our country today is that there are many graduates without jobs. But, if you go through newspapers you can see hundreds of vacancies advertised daily. But there aren't qualified people to fill those vacancies. What is the reason for this mismatch? The reason is that employers are concerned about the employability of the graduates. A recent research has shown that employers' consideration of academic qualifications is only about 35% and the rest is on their soft skills such as communication skills, team work, flexibility, creativity, sociability, and so on and so forth.

This is an area where KDU is much ahead of other universities. So, I encourage you all to take part in sports activities, diverse club activities, and various other functions organized by the university targeted at developing soft skills that will ensure that you will become marketable and employable graduates with a greater demand in the competitive world of today.

Ladies and gentlemen, we being a defence university pay much attention to the physical fitness of our students. We believe in the motto, "healthy mind in a healthy body." So let me request you to make use of the wonderful gymnasium, swimming pool, and all the other sports facilities available at KDU to develop yourselves into balanced personalities that the modern world is demanding today.

Let me finally wish you success in all your endeavors to achieve ultimate challenges of life. I also would like to assure you that my staff and I are always ready to help you in all possible ways to meet such challenges successfully.

In conclusion, I welcome you again to this unique and prestigious university. I also make this an opportunity to thank your parents, teachers and loved ones for encouraging, supporting and approving your choice to join KDU. Good luck to all of you. Thank you.

15. Welcome Address at 116th Birth Anniversary of General Sir John Kotelawala on 07.04.2013

Vice Admiral Jayanath Colombage, the Commander of the SL Navy, and Madam Colombage, Chancellor, General Rohan De S Daluwatte, distinguished invitees, members of General Sir John Kotelawala Memorial Association, alumni of KDU, officers, academics, ladies and gentlemen, We have gathered here today to commemorate the 116th birth anniversary of the benevolent philanthropist and our benefactor, the late General Right Honourable Sir John Lionel Kotelawala, Companion of Honour, Knight Commander of the British Empire and Doctor of Laws.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as the present Vice Chancellor of this Defence University named after General Sir John, I take this opportunity to very warmly welcome all of you gathered here to pay tribute to him –the great son of Sri Lanka who is gratefully remembered for the eminent role he played in the service of the nation, first as a Colonel, in the Ceylon Light Infantry of the British Army, subsequently as the Minister of Communication, Public Works and Transport, and finally as the third Prime Minister of independent Sri Lanka, and for us at KDU as the man whose benevolence materialized in the form of a University, which is a living monument that keeps his name distinctly alive in our hearts.

Ladies and gentlemen, we at KDU give the highest priority for this annual event as we believe in the merits of being grateful to the benefactor of this university, partly because of which KDU today has reached very high levels never dreamt of being possible a couple of years ago. In addition to being in the forefront of defence related higher education in the country, today, we have reached higher planes in the overall university education in the country, catering in a substantial manner to higher educational requirements of civilian students as well.

KDU has now broken the shackles of island mentality and reached international levels in many domains of higher education. – Today, thousands of military and civil students read for degrees ranging from basic degrees to PhDs at KDU in important disciplines such as Medicine, Engineering, Law, Social Sciences and Management. We have foreign students reading for our degrees and foreign staff teaching in our faculties. Affiliations and collaborations with foreign universities of the highest reputation in the world have shown us larger horizons in the field of global education. It is my belief that this growth of our university is surely a matter of pride for all of us as heirs to the heritage of General Sir John Kotelawala.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me now introduce our chief guest today, who is in no way a stranger to KDU. He has been very strong supporter of KDU and its development. He has always been supporting the vision of elevating KDU to be an eminent seat of learning in the country as well as in the region. Further, his attachment to KDU has been further established as he is currently reading for his PhD at KDU.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our chief guest today is none other than Vice Admiral Jayanath Colombage, the Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy. First of all, I cordially welcome Vice Admiral Jayanath Colombage and Madam Colombage to KDU and to the 116th birth anniversary celebration of General Sir John Kotelawala, and I pay my gratitude to you Sir for accepting our invitation and for being with us today along with madam Colombage. Your presence is encouraging and inspiring.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me attempt to introduce Vice Admiral Colombage as briefly and succinctly as possible, though it is not an easy task to do so.

Vice Admiral Jayanath Colombage joined the Sri Lanka Navy as an Officer Cadet on 23rd August 1978 and successfully completed his basic training at the renowned Naval and Maritime Academy in Trincomalee winning the ‘Sword of Honour’ for the Best Officer Cadet of the 7th Intake. He was then selected to attend the prestigious International Midshipmen Course in the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth in the United Kingdom.

He has commanded four Operational Naval Commands - Eastern, Northern, Western and North Central for a period spanning 4 years. Also, he served twice as the Director General Operations at the Naval Head Quarters and he is a weapon specialist who has undergone extensive training with the Indian Navy and in the People's Republic of China.

Vice Admiral Colombage is a recipient of the *Rana Sura Padakkama* for gallantry. Among the other medals awarded are the *Vishista Seva Vibhushanaya* (the highest award), the *Utthama Seva Padakkama*, the Sri Lanka Navy 50th Anniversary Medal, the Sri Lanka Armed Services Long Service Medal, the President's Inauguration Medal, the 50th Independence Anniversary Commemoration Medal, the East Humanitarian Operation Medal, the North Humanitarian Operation Medal, the North and East Operations Medal, the *Purna Bhumi Padakkama*, the *Vadamarachchi* Operation Medal and the *Riviresa* Campaign Service Medal, all of which bear testimony for the immeasurable service he rendered to the nation at the toughest period of its history.

Vice Admiral Jayanath Colombage is one of the most commended Naval Officers. Successive Commanders of the Navy have issued him with 'Letters of Commendation' for exceptional execution of duties and responsibilities and for his achievements in numerous fields such as operational activities, leadership, managerial and administrative skills, academic achievements, highest commitment and dedication towards the cause of the nation. He is the recipient of the prestigious 5-Star Commendation Badge.

Vice Admiral Jayanath Colombage has achieved many firsts in his distinguished, decorative and unblemished naval career of 34 years. He has been conferred with two Masters Degrees - Master of Science in Defence Studies and Master of Arts in International Studies. Presently, Vice Admiral Colombage is reading for his Doctorate in Philosophy at KDU. He has been a regular lecturer at the Defence Services Command and Staff College in Colombo since its inception. He is an expert on Maritime Security and has published papers and conducted National Level Seminars on Maritime Security and certified by the International Maritime Organization as a lecturer on International Conventions on Port and Ship Security. He has presented many papers on Maritime Terrorism related subjects at national as well as international forums. He has published a book titled 'Naval Terms and Expressions' and actively contributes to various academic forums. He made very significant contributions at KDU International Symposia as an eminent scholar in Defence presenting highly acclaimed research papers at its plenary sessions on Defence.

He is a distinguished alumni of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington in India, Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies, Hawaii in the United States of America and Royal College of Defence Studies in the United Kingdom. He is also an Associate of the Nautical Institute of the United Kingdom and currently the President of the Sri Lanka Chapter. Also, he holds Diplomas in Security Studies, Conflict Resolution, International Affairs and Information Technology.

He was a promising National level athlete and was awarded the Sri Lanka Schools Colours and the Sri Lanka Navy Colours in Athletics. He held the post of President of the Sri Lanka Navy Athletics Club from 1999 to 2006 and also served as President of the renowned Ceylonese Track and Field Club. He is a Vice President of the Sri Lanka Navy Sports Board.

Vice Admiral Jayanath Colombage hails from Katunayake and is a product of St. Sylvester's College, Kandy and he is the first Old Sylvestian to be elevated to the position a Service Commander in the military history of Sri Lanka. Vice Admiral Jayanath Colombage is married to Srima and they are blessed with a daughter, Indeewari who is employed as an Assistant Director at the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

Ladies and Gentlemen! Let me the honour to invite the Chief Guest of today's event Vice Admiral Jayanath Colombage to deliver the commemorative address. Over to you sir.

16. Welcome Address at Commencement of National Interest Module of MPhil/PhD Programme on 13.06.2013

Chief guest, Secretary to the Ministry of Defence and Urban Development Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa; Chief of Defence Staff, Air Chief Marshal Roshan Goonetilleke; Commander of the Army, Lt Gen Jagath Jayasuriya; Commander of the Navy, Vice Admiral Jayanath Colombage; Commander of the Air Force, Air Marshal Harsha Abeywickrama; honoured invitees; Deputy Vice Chancellors Defence and Academic; Deans of Faculties; lecturers and officers of KDU; participants of the MPhil/PhD programme, ladies and gentlemen, good morning!

It is with utmost pleasure that I address you on the commencement of the National Interest Module of the MPhil/PhD programme-1 of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University. The MPhil/PhD programme of KDU commenced on the 14th July 2012 with the view to facilitating middle grade and senior officers of the tri-services, as well as public and private sector officials, to obtain higher educational qualifications related to national interests. In view of the dearth in defence related knowledge in the higher education arena, KDU, as the only Defence University in the South Asian region, rose to the occasion to fulfill this national necessity.

It is understood that the availability of officers with MPhil and PhD qualifications and a sound knowledge of national interests would be a main requirement for the country at present. So, I take this opportunity to thank the Secretary Defence, Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Chairman of the Board of Management of KDU, for making it possible for us to introduce this programme at KDU.

At present, thirty two officers are engaged in the MPhil/PhD programme 1. They have already submitted their project proposals which are being evaluated by a group of highly qualified academics to maintain the standard of the programme.

Speaking briefly about the specifics of this programme, the first 06 months are aimed at enhancing and perfecting participants' knowledge of research methodology. This first stage sets the base for those enrolled in the programme to successfully engage in the remainder of their academic studies. I am pleased to say that we have now come to the second stage of the programme, which is the "National Interest Module".

Today, we are extremely honoured to have here with us Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa as the chief guest of this ceremony. Sir, we couldn't have had anyone more appropriate than you to deliver the inaugural lecture of the national interest module, on the

theme “Sri Lanka’s Strategy and Security Concerns”, particularly as you were the chief architect of strategising the humanitarian operation to ensure the victorious end of war against terror in Sri Lanka. Ladies and gentlemen, it is only as a matter of duty that I introduce our chief guest to the audience because he is not a stranger to any one of us present here today.

Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa assumed duties as the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence in November 2005, and as we are all aware, in this capacity, Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa guided the Sri Lankan Defence Services to victory against the separatist terrorism of the LTTE, thereby ending a thirty year long conflict in Sri Lanka.

A career soldier, Mr Rajapaksa joined the Sri Lanka Army in 1971 and served our country with distinction for twenty years. He commanded many anti-terrorist operations in the North and East of Sri Lanka at crucial times during the conflict. Amongst these, his command of the 1st Battalion of the Gajaba Regiment in the vital Vadamarachchi Operation in 1987, and his participation in Operation Thrividabalaya in 1990 to rescue the Jaffna Peninsula from terrorist control are particularly noteworthy.

Following these accomplishments, Mr Rajapaksa became the Commanding Officer of Sir John Kotelawala Defence University as a Lieutenant Colonel and was subsequently appointed as the Deputy Commandant in 1991. He was the Coordinating Officer of the Matale District and the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, Gajaba Regiment from 1989 to 1990.

During his military career, Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa was awarded the President’s Commendation letter by the late President His Excellency JR Jayawardene and was decorated with the Rana Wickrama Padakkama and the Rana Sura Padakkama medals for valour in combat by the late Presidents, His Excellencies R Premadasa and DB Wijetunge. He has also received a commendation from the Commander of the Army for his bravery in action.

Hailing from the village of Weeraketiya in the South of Sri Lanka, Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa had his education at Ananda College, Colombo, Sri Lanka’s premier Buddhist school. He completed his basic officer cadet training at the prestigious Sri Lanka Military Academy at Diyatalawa, and subsequently completed the Young Officers Course at Rawalpindi and the mid-career course at Quetta, Pakistan. He completed his staff course at the Defence Services Staff College in Wellington, India, in 1983, and obtained his Master’s Degree in Defence Studies from the University of Madras in the same year. He underwent advanced training in Counter

Insurgency and Jungle Warfare in Assam, India, and he is also a graduate of the Infantry School at Fort Benning, USA in Advanced Infantry Training.

Following his successful career in the Sri Lanka Army, Mr Rajapaksa obtained a Master's Degree in Information Technology from the University of Colombo. He subsequently worked as the Unix System Administrator of the prestigious Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, California, prior to returning to Sri Lanka to take up his appointment as the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence.

Mr Rajapaksa is the brother of the current President of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa, and the son of former parliamentarian and Deputy Speaker of Parliament, the late Mr DA Rajapaksa.

Sir, while thanking you for accepting our invitation in spite of your busy schedule, I cordially invite you to deliver the inaugural lecture of the National Interest Module of the MPhil/PhD programme of our university. Over to you sir.

17. Address at KDU Alumni Dinner 2013 on 26.07.2013

Former Chancellor, General *Desamanya* Denis Perera, Former Vice Chancellors and Commandants of KDU, distinguished invitees, alumni of KDU, ladies and gentlemen,

I am very glad, as the incumbent Vice Chancellor of KDU, to welcome all the distinguished invitees to the fifth alumni dinner jointly organized by KDU alumni association and KDU. Especially, I consider it an honour to welcome the former Chancellors, Vice Chancellors, and Commandants who in their day have rendered a yeoman service to initiate, develop and sustain this great institution over the years. I also very warmly welcome home all KDU alumni present here tonight. You all are a tower of strength that upholds this university that is going to be one of the best universities in Asia in the near future.

Ladies and gentlemen, today is yet another significant day for KDU and to its alumni especially because of the important event of declaring open the KDU museum, a long felt need for the university. Any great nation or institution carries forward its image, culture, and heritage by protecting and fostering its history for the generations to come. A museum, in this sense, fulfills this task by physically displaying the institution's origin and growth for the benefit of future generations. I am therefore sure that all of us here who have been involved with KDU in some way or another are extremely happy and also humbly proud that we have been able to initiate and establish our museum today.

We have done our utmost to collect and display all available data, pictures, and memorabilia at the museum and I request all of you to provide whatever important memorabilia worthy of display at the museum if you have personal access to any such items.

Ladies and gentlemen, I avail this opportunity to thank the KDU alumni of the Army, Navy, and Air Force and all others who generously contributed to make the KDU museum a reality. I consider that the contribution of the alumni is essential for developing this university as your strength directly and indirectly contributes to the growth of your *alma mater*. Ladies and gentlemen, I also consider that the strength of the alumni and of the university will be mutually beneficial for both parties. For instance, the alumni can enjoy benefits such as the 50% scholarships for their children who wish to receive their higher education at KDU, and there is special consideration for them in the selection process— of course only if they fulfill the basic requirements and qualifications for degree programmes applied.

It is heartening to note that members of the second generation of KDU alumni are pursuing postgraduate courses at KDU, and they are now able to reach the highest academic achievement by completing PhDs at KDU. So let me encourage you to make the best out of these benefits and opportunities available to you and to your children for a better tomorrow and for better service to the nation.

Talking about the KDU alumni dinner, it has come to stay as a main event in the university calendar. This social function ensures a great link between the past and the present of KDU. It ensures unity and focus of the alumni as a chain that gains strength day by day and year by year. It strengthens the brotherhood amongst the alumni on the one hand and the image of the University on the other. I am truly and sincerely touched by the keen interest of the alumni in the growth of KDU. I consider that it is our collective responsibility to further strengthen our love, attachment and concern for KDU. It is only then will we be able to rest content that we have done our bit for this great institution.

I also encourage you to use KDU facilities available for outsourcing. Particularly this pool side resort would be an ideal setting for any sort of functions that you wish to organize in the future.

Finally, let me thank the dignitaries present here today, particularly Deshamanya General Denis Perera who pioneered in the establishment of this university. Sir, I am sure that you are extremely happy to witness the present growth and status of this university. I thank former Vice Chancellor and Commandants present here today while remembering with gratitude those who have passed away. Let me thank all alumni and KDU staff who made a special effort to organize the dual functions today. Finally, I wish you all a very enjoyable evening at this newly constructed pool side resort. Thank you.

18. Welcoming MBBS Students of Intake 31 on 01.08.2013

Deputy Vice Chancellor Defence, Brigadier Lal Gunasekara; Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic, Prof Susirith Mendis; Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Prof Thilak Weerasuriya; Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Brig Nishantha Wadugodapitiya; Dean, Faculty of Defence Studies, Col Udaya Herath; members of Faculties; newly enlisted 5th batch of military medical students of Intake 31; parents; ladies and gentlemen, good morning!

Let me begin by very warmly welcoming you, the new officer cadets enlisted for the fifth MBBS programme of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, and let me also congratulate you on being selected to read for a medical degree at KDU. Dear cadets, you can feel proud of the opportunity you have got to read for an MBBS at this prestigious Defence University because you have undergone a very hard selection process and also you have competed with a very large number of applicants to secure a place.

Officer Cadets, I am sure that today is a memorable day in your lives as your much awaited dream has come true with the opening of an avenue to study for a prestigious medical career. Also, more importantly, you are entering to cadetship to join the profession of arms. So there is another reason for you to be proud of yourselves and to consider this day a very significant milestone in your lives.

You must be aware that after the successful completion of the MBBS degree programme, you will not only become fully qualified medical practitioners but also be commissioned as officers of the Sri Lanka Army, Navy or Air Force. So, in the future you will be able to serve the nation as military medical practitioners in Sri Lanka.

As usual, you too will begin your studies and training with an intensive training programme which gives you the opportunity to enhance your basic English Language skills, IT skills, and basic military skills, all three of which will lay the foundation for you to follow the degree programme successfully.

So learn the basics well. That will take you a long way. Your English language skills would particularly be essential for following the degree programme in the medium of English, and therefore you must acquire those skills with enthusiasm and diligence. Similarly, your basic military training is a must as it will gradually convert you from your civil life to the military life that you have opted for. Then of

course, you will be guided through the subjects of medicine by the well qualified and dedicated members of the Faculty of Medicine.

We always endeavour to provide you the best of facilities and resources at KDU despite financial constraints. We do our best to overcome difficulties and provide you with many world class facilities. The new teaching hospital is in its final stages, and we are now the proud owners of a skills lab of the high calibre in Sri Lanka.

As Officer Cadets of the 5th batch of Military Medical students, you have another responsibility to look after the foreign students who will join your intake from countries such as, China, Bhutan and the Maldives. They will join you as day-scholars. Each one of you will have to act as an ambassador of Sri Lankan hospitality. Each of you will be assigned a foreign student to facilitate their transition to fit in with KDU's standards and culture. You must establish and maintain cordial relations with these students ensuring that they feel comfortable in our university and in your programme of study.

Furthermore, you have to understand that unlike other medical colleges, at KDU you are paid and all your expenditures related to your academic process are totally free of charge. Therefore, get the maximum benefits from these given opportunities. In the meantime you must maintain good rapport with your lecturers, military officers, and other ranks who are assisting you in numerous ways and with your colleagues.

Moreover, you must be committed to be well disciplined. You should never ever break rules and never ever let your colleagues break rules. Unlike other universities, KDU expects very high standards from all its students. Whoever, who break rules will be punished; these punishments can go to the extent of discharging you from KDU as well as from the military service that you are hoping to enter.

In any profession, the physically and mentally fit young men and women dominate; in military to dedicate your service you must be physically and mentally fit. Moreover, being physically mentally fit make you healthy and ready to face any situation. KDU military training, especially the physical training programmes will groom you to maintain highest standards in physical fitness. Follow the programme well and achieve your goals.

Whenever you face problems, do not live with them. You can find better solutions for them. Have faith on KDU staff especially your Squadron Commander and the Troop Commanders. Their solemn duty is to train you to be the best of the people in the future. Therefore, get their assistance. At the same time give your feedbacks.

They will definitely help to develop KDU's stature as one the best of its kind in Sri Lanka.

Once again let me remind you that your endeavour should be to become role models in the profession of medicine and create a different culture based on ethics and always act as per the oath that you take. Determine not to deviate from that. Demonstrate your leadership qualities, managerial skills and character in your day today activities, Show that you are a different set of students. Help others always.

Finally, I wish that your stay at KDU would be a very happy, memorable and above all a highly productive one that would mould you into Officer Cadets ready for achieving the expected goals of the University. Happy Cadet life and soldiering! Good Luck! Thank You.

19. Address at KDU International Research Symposium 2013 on 22.08.2013

Distinguished members of the head table, Your Excellencies, invited dignitaries, ladies and gentlemen, it is my greatest pleasure as the Vice Chancellor of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University to deliver the welcome and introductory address of the KDU International Research Symposium 2013.

I am greatly honoured to welcome our chief guest and keynote speaker, Mr Lalith Weeratunga, Secretary to His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka. Sir, I am grateful to you for accepting our invitation and for being here to grace the inaugural ceremony of this two day research symposium. I cannot think of a better personality than you in Sri Lanka to deliver the keynote address on this year's theme "Sri Lanka as a Hub in Asia: the Way Forward"– for the obvious reason of your philosophical and strategic level involvement in designing HE the President's five hub strategy to develop our motherland.

Next, I warmly welcome Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Secretary to the Ministry of Defence and Urban Development and Chairman of the board of management of KDU; His Lordship Hon Mohan Peiris, Chief Justice of Sri Lanka; Your Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps; Chief of Defence Staff, Gen Jagath Jayasuriya; Commander of the Army, Lt Gen Daya Ratnayake; Commander of the Navy, Vice Admiral Jayanath Colabamage; Commander of the Air Force, Air Marshal Harsha Abeywickrama; Inspector General of Police, Mr NK Illangakoon; Chairperson of the University Grants Commission, Prof Kshanika Hirimburegama; Vice Chancellors; Senior officers of Armed Forces; distinguished academics from other universities, and especially the renowned professors, scholars, and very eminent personalities representing our neighboring countries China, India, and Pakistan. And I warmly welcome all the presenters and participants whose contribution will be crucial for the success of the KDU Research Symposium 2013.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we consider that the theme of this year's symposium "Sri Lanka as a Hub in Asia: The Way Forward" is pertinent in the face of contemporary socio-economic and political realities of Sri Lanka. The development and security nexus has been a fundamental component of development policies of states. European Security Strategy 2003 acknowledges that security is the first condition for development. On the same spirit I can proudly say that KDU is in the forefront of producing professionals in all relevant fields, who can competently handle security and development issues well for the betterment of the country.

Sri Lanka has passed four years since the end of the internal conflict which is considered as the gloomiest era in the recent history of our nation. The assemblages of terror outfits operating beyond our state still attempt to destabilise our nation's progress and consolidation. Since these threat perspectives are emanating from the international sphere, KDU as the only Defence University in the country is expected to play a wider role to protect the interest of the nation against those external forces. It is the need of the hour for KDU to further strengthen this initiative by laying a strong foundation in defence and security education which will be a key in the long run to stabilise economic, social and political environment of our nation. The government's idea to make Sri Lanka a Commercial, Naval, Aviation, Energy and a Knowledge hub is embedded in every activity that is taking place in our university.

Despite those efforts to undermine our country's progress, Sri Lanka today is steadily marching towards the goal to become a Hub in Asia. I believe HE the President's government is trying to achieve this goal by implementing *Mahinda Chintana* vision including the five hub policy as I spelt out earlier. I assume that Mr Lalith Weeratunga will elaborate this year's KDU symposium theme, Sri Lanka as a Hub in Asia: the Way Forward, in his keynote address.

Ladies and gentlemen, today the stage is set to facilitate a huge leap in the development of social, economic, technological and cultural aspects of our country. It is my belief that the general psyche of this resurgent nation is well attuned for the same. Therefore, it is the national responsibility to harness all the potentials to strengthen the process and to keep the momentum for the next couple of years to make Sri Lanka the country that every patriotic Sri Lankan desires to see. It is in this spirit that the KDU as a defence university has come to play a vital role in expanding the knowledge base in research and development to support the national course.

Ladies and gentlemen, with the blessings of the Board of Management chaired by Secretary Defence, Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa, KDU is futuristically poised as a national university to contribute to the national course by grooming young military officers and civilian students, while providing postgraduate programmes leading to MPhils and PhDs. We hope that our Research Symposium 2013 will encourage the intelligentsia and industry professionals to address issues pertinent to national development. The national orientation of the theme however does not restrict our deliberations only towards domestic issues. We have identified that the hub status of Sri Lanka has its vital international orientation and our invitation to dignitaries and presenters from the region indicates the significance that we have assigned to international opinions which we believe as an important component of our way to become a hub in Asia. We very warmly welcome our foreign dignitaries to KDU.

Ladies and gentlemen, speaking about the specifics of our symposium, we have organized five discipline-specific plenary sessions on Defence, Engineering, Medicine and Allied Health Sciences, Law, and Management, Social Sciences and Humanities. These plenary sessions will be enriched by important and seminal presentations by eminent intellectuals and experts in relevant fields and I hope that invaluable intellectual discussions and deliberations will entail Q and A sessions to follow. The technical sessions coming under these five plenary sessions will be conducted tomorrow and they will provide an opportunity for micro-level research presentations relevant to the identified sub themes. The overall outcome of this symposium would harness intellectual inputs for national development in all important disciplines which will lay a solid base towards making Sri Lanka a hub in Asia.

The multi-disciplinary nature of our symposium will ensure a holistic approach towards the overarching theme of Sri Lanka's developing into a Hub. Our aim is to provide an intellectual platform to facilitate national development through a wide spectrum of high quality research. The symposium will also link intellectual inputs with decision making processes of both the state and non-state sectors, to establish international links for the betterment of the nation's progress. All these I consider are imperative for the rapid advancement of the nation in social, cultural, technological and scientific domains.

Ladies and gentlemen, I firmly believe that the deliberations at the KDU Research Symposium 2013 will be an inspiring experience for participating academics, officers, professionals and entrepreneurs, those of you who are physically present here and those who witness it throughout the world through the live webcast. Further, the Symposium Proceedings, which will be published soon will provide a sizable contribution to the knowledge base of diverse disciplines supporting further research and facilitating national development.

In conclusion, let me once again very warmly welcome the dignitaries, intellectuals, and all the participants. I hope that the deliberations of this symposium would positively contribute for the well-being of our motherland and for the betterment of mankind through dissemination of knowledge. My wish is that the attempts we make will help Sri Lanka to take the central role in Asian development domain. I conclude by expressing hope that KDU international research symposium will be of immense benefit to all participants, to KDU, to Sri Lanka and to the progress of the entire humanity. Thank you.

20. Welcome Address at Commemoration of 33rd Death Anniversary of General Sir John Kotelawala on 02.10.2013

Lieutenant General Daya Ratnayake *WWV RWP RSP USP ndu psc*, Commander of the Sri Lanka Army, Sir; the Chief Guest of today's commemoration ceremony Chancellor, General Rohan de S Daluwaththa *WWV RWP RSP VSV USP LOM ndc psc*, Sir; distinguished invitees; members of General Sir John Kotelawala Memorial Society; alumni of KDU; ladies and gentlemen. Today, we commemorate the 33rd death anniversary of the benefactor of this university, Late General Sir Lionel John Kotelawala, Companion of Honour, Knight Commander of the British Empire, and Doctor of Law, who in his great benevolence and spirit of generosity, donated his beloved Kandawala estate to establish this university 35 years ago.

I am very glad to welcome all of you to this solemn occasion of commemorating and paying tribute to Gen Sir John Kotelawala, the great Sri Lankan known for his exemplary leadership, outstanding personality and intense patriotism. Ladies and Gentlemen, I consider that the most befitting tribute that we could endow upon Sir John would be to ensure the advancement of KDU. This is the task to which all of us at KDU are committed, and on this day of commemorating Sir John, it is the responsibility of all of us to vouch to continue to do so in the future too in whatever capacities we could do so.

I am sure, had Sir John lived today, he would have been the happiest to witness the progress this university has made today. As most of you are aware we have expanded the scope of KDU from an institute of military education to that of a prestigious state university that shoulders a larger share of responsibility for elevating the country and its economy through competitive excellence in higher education. Sir John would have been the happiest to see the leadership role assumed by KDU in tertiary education in the country; today, the university has reached international standards in its outlook of activities; it is training not only Sri Lankan youths but also deserving youths in the region; the demand for KDU degrees is on the increase as it offers its students with the cutting edge knowledge to achieve success anywhere in the world.

Further, KDU has initiated numerous graduate degree programmes under the Faculty of Graduate Studies to fulfil the current demands of the military and civil society of the country. KDU is well on its way to be a university of international standards in many aspects with special emphasis on developing research. KDU has

signed MOUs with reputed foreign universities and is looking forward to reaping the fruits in the near future.

Ladies and gentlemen, all of us can be proud that KDU has expanded in many folds both in the academic sphere and in infrastructure development, and with a committed staff both military and civil, KDU has already reached a level of excellence that I am sure the late benefactor of this university would have highly applauded, had he lived today.

Ladies and Gentlemen, after this brief glimpse into the current status of the legacy of our late benefactor, I consider that I would be failing in my duty if I do not speak a few words about the founder of this University, Deshamanya Late General JED Perera. Gen Dennis Perera graced the last commemoration ceremony held here in April this year, and just two weeks prior to his demise he visited KDU as the chief guest of the opening ceremony of the KDU museum where a special corner was established as the founders' corner. Gen Perera's contribution to this university as the founder and the Chancellor for 10 long years is immeasurable and highly commendable. I wish to make this an occasion to pay our sincere gratitude and tribute to late Gen Deshamanya Denis Perera who will continue to be fondly remembered at KDU forever.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me now take this opportunity to introduce to you our Chief Guest this evening, who is none other than Lieutenant General Daya Ratnayake, Commander of the Sri Lanka Army. Sir, let me first of all very cordially and respectfully welcome you to KDU and to the commemoration of the 33rd Death Anniversary of Gen Sir John Kotelawala. Ladies and Gentlemen, Lieutenant General Daya Ratnayake was a strong supporter of KDU and its cause even before he assumed in the high office as the Commander of the Army. And today he shows a great affinity to this university and it is a great strength for us in our forward march.

Lieutenant General Daya Ratnayake who assumed office as the 20th Commander of the SL Army on August 1, 2013 was enlisted to the Regular Force of the Sri Lanka Army on 06 February 1980 as an Officer Cadet. On completion of basic training, he was commissioned into the oldest Regiment of the Army, the Sri Lanka Light Infantry, as a Second Lieutenant on 18 July 1981.

Upon commissioning, he followed many local and foreign courses few of which are the Commando Officers' Course, Infantry Young Officers' Course, Battalion Support Weapon Course, Junior Command and Senior Command Courses in India, Governance and Management of Defence Course at Cranfield University, UK,

Higher Level Security Studies Diploma Course and Advanced Communication Skills Course in the Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies, in Hawaii, USA. He was also graduated from the Army Intelligence School, Fort Arizona, USA, Defence Services Command and Staff College, Bangladesh and National Defence University, China.

In a career spanning more than 33 years, he has attended and contributed immensely to many seminars, conferences, workshops and invited assignments both locally and internationally. Lieutenant General Ratnayake stands out as one of the few Officers of the Sri Lankan Armed Forces to have successfully completed many local and overseas graduate study courses and diplomas. We are proud that, currently, he is reading for a PhD at the Kotelawala Defence University.

Blending his wide experience and service, Lieutenant General Daya Ratnayake has held many command appointments including Commanding Officer of an Infantry Battalion and Commander of three Infantry Brigades prior to being appointed as the General Officer Commanding, 23 Infantry Division which spearheaded the historic humanitarian operations in the East. On successful conclusion of the humanitarian operations, he was appointed as the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation with the massive task of rehabilitating 12,000 ex-combatants. Employing a mix of unique concepts and experts both military and civilian, he initiated a rehabilitation program which was not only successful but also much admired and accepted internationally.

He has also held key staff, instructor and administrative appointments, including Commanding Officer of the Sri Lanka Military Academy, Director Media of the Sri Lanka Army and Military Spokesman for the Ministry of Defence, during the period from September 2004 to September 2005.

His outstanding leadership in combat inspired the success of the humanitarian operations in the critical eastern province which resulted in the separation of the LTTE from its much needed recruits. The victory in the east which paved the way for the defeat of the LTTE could be largely attributed to the role played by Lieutenant General Daya Ratnayake as General Officer Commanding of 23 Division. Lieutenant General Daya Ratnayake spent a good part of his career leading men in combat which he did with utmost dedication and valour, sustaining injury in the process. He has been in the forefront of all major combat operations conducted by the Sri Lanka Army since 1981. His excellent career also includes valuable service to the Sri Lanka Light Infantry Regiment and the Military intelligence Corps.

He had been serving as the Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Army since January 10th, 2010 and is credited with streamlining the administrative and logistic structure of

the Army. Whilst serving as the Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Army, he also held the appointment of Colonel of the Regiment of Sri Lanka Light Infantry, which comprises 25 Battalions, both regular and volunteer.

Lieutenant General Daya Ratnayake's distinguished service and valour in combat has earned him, more than twenty gallantry and service medals, including Weera Wickrema Vibushanaya (WWV), Rana Wickrama Padakkama (RWP) (Awarded four times), Rana Sura Padakkama (RSP) (Awarded four times), Uththama Seva Padakkama (USP) for distinguished conduct and Desha Puthra Padakkama (DPP) for being wounded in combat. To this date, Lieutenant General Daya Ratnayake remains the Officer to be awarded Gallantry medals for the most number of times.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I take this opportunity to most cordially invite the Chief Guest of today's event, Lieutenant General Daya Rathnayake to address the gathering. Thank you.

21. Welcome Address at the Inauguration of the 2nd Staff Development Programme on 21.02.2014

Prof Ranjith Senarathne, Vice Chairman, UGC, DVC Defence, DVC Academic, Deans of Faculties, Members of Staff, Good Morning to you!

I am pleased to welcome all of you to the inauguration of this second Staff Development Course at KDU, organized by the Staff Development Centre of the university. And I am extremely glad that Professor Ranjith Senarathna, Vice Chairman of the University Grants Commission is here with us today as the Chief Guest. As a part of the supreme advisory and regulatory body on higher education, his contribution to the strengthening and expanding of Sri Lanka's higher education and its quality has been immense. So as a university, we are truly grateful to Professor Senarathna for his presence at today's event.

Professor, let me very warmly welcome you to KDU and thank you for accepting our invitation and coming here to grace this occasion despite your busy schedule. Your presence will no doubt greatly inspire our young academics.

Ladies and gentlemen, we initiated this program under the guidance of Dr. Prathibha Mahanamahewa, Dean Faculty of Management and Law in 2012. The move was a pressing need in the face of the expansion of the university and the resultant increase of the academic staff over the last few years. Until 2012 we depended on SDCs of other universities like Colombo and Kelaniya, and we thought that the time was ripe for us to be self-sufficient in staff development as well. The result was the establishment of our own staff development centre and the initiation of this course.

The first programme was a comprehensive in-house developed course, and we closely monitored its progress in order to strengthen the programme further as we strongly believe that staff development is a crucial factor for the qualitative growth of the university. I am of the conviction that our first attempt was fairly successful and having learnt from that experience the centre is now ready to deliver its second course, being on a better footing. I am told that there is a higher enthusiasm from the staff to follow this course. I think that this enthusiasm is not only because this is a compulsory requirement for your promotions, but more so because of your genuine desire to acquire the essential skills needed for you to become great teachers in the future.

I am also glad that we are now able to find in-house resource persons representing different fields to guide our young academics. The multi-disciplinary approach will enable participants to learn from their peers in other disciplines, and this would also give a fresh outlook for resource persons as well to think out of the box and be innovative in their delivery. The course would also encourage a constructive dialogue and further networking among our staff to work as a family in raising the level of our university.

Today, KDU has gone beyond the ambit of defence education and we are catering to the higher education demands of the country and to some extent of the region as well. We have realized that in the present context, it is vital to launch trendy educational programmes that ensure maximum student satisfaction. We have also realized the need for attracting foreign students for our degree programmes thereby contributing to the task of making Sri Lanka the knowledge hub in Asia. We are also aware that all these depend on the quality of our staff and the quality of education imparted by the university, and that is why we give this programme a very high priority among our activities.

Therefore, it is my fervent hope that the SDC of KDU will strive to produce a highly competent and attitudinally poised panel of lecturers who could greatly elevate the level of the university in the years to come. My expectation is that you all will be in a position to put forward fruitful suggestions for the improvement of your courses and of the university as a whole within a year.

This programme, I hope, would also encourage you to frame guidelines and plan for future staff development programmes, to find ways and means of assessing training needs of staff, to formulate course structures and plan course modules, intended learning outcomes, evaluation procedures and so on. The SDC would also function as a unit that would promote new initiatives and reforms to improve the efficiency and productivity of the academic and also of non-academic staff.

As Socrates once said “The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing.” Therefore, although academics guide others, this will be a good opportunity for all of you to improve your training skills and talents for ensuring more effective delivery of your courses or higher education programmes.

So, finally let me conclude wishing you all the best. May all of you achieve the fruits of this course to groom your academic career to better serve KDU and Sri Lanka! Thank you.

22. Welcome Address at the Opening of Workshop on “Transforming Education for the Digital Age” on 13.05.2014

Honourable SB Dissanayaka, Minister of Higher Education; Prof Kshanika Hirimburegama, Chairperson of the University Grants Commission, Vice Chancellors of other universities, Deputy Vice Chancellor Defence and Administration, Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic, Deans, members of the faculties, Distinguished participants, representatives from Microsoft Sri Lanka, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure in welcoming the dignitaries and all the participants to this opening ceremony of the workshop on “Transforming Education for the Digital Age” jointly organized by Microsoft Sri Lanka and the Centre for IT Support and Development Services of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.

First let me very warmly and cordially welcome our chief guest, the Minister of Higher Education, Hon SB Dissanayake. Sir we are greatly honoured by your participation in this ceremony at KDU, and the very acceptance of our invitation is an implication of the high priority that you have given for transforming higher education in Sri Lanka “to the digital age”, as mentioned in the theme for this workshop.

Next, let me also very warmly welcome Prof Kshanika Hirimburegama, the Chairperson of UGC, the Vice Chancellors of other universities, and Deans of Faculties who have come here to grace the occasion. Your participation is a great encouragement for KDU to launch this kind of programmes for the benefit of tertiary education in Sri Lanka.

I would also like to welcome the Country Manager of Microsoft Sri Lanka, Mr Imran Vilcassim and all the other officials from the Microsoft Company who are here with us today. It is heartening to note that the Microsoft Company has come forward to assist us in this knowledge dissemination exercise.

Finally, let me welcome all participants of this workshop from other universities along with the KDU staff and students.

Ladies and gentlemen, as you are already aware, this workshop is jointly organized by the newly established Centre for IT Support and Development of our University and Microsoft Sri Lanka that is working in close collaboration with this centre. The

aim of the workshop, which I think, will be elaborated by the experts in a short while, is to initiate a programme to educate the university community in Sri Lanka on essential aspects of ICT for transforming our educational set up for the digital age, which is of paramount importance for all of us to carry the country forward.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) education is basically to impart valuable knowledge and skills around computing and communication devices, software that operates them, applications that are run on them, and systems that are built with them. Today, everyone needs a basic understanding of ICT and how to make productive use of it, in order to be good students, workers and citizens. Teaching people how to be competent basic users of ICT technologies is an important role of ICT education. The obvious reason is that those well qualified in ICT can achieve their academic and professional goals more efficiently.

Beyond a basic user competency, our society also needs more knowledgeable and capable technical people to be deployed for managing and maintaining ICT equipment, software, and systems. In all industries, these people manage computer and communications hardware, software and applications, networked systems, online information sharing, and so on and so forth.

I am told that in today's workshop 6 leading IT personalities representing Microsoft Sri Lanka will share their knowledge. Therefore, I believe that this workshop will provide the participants not only with the essential knowledge but also with a great opportunity to share experiences on both technical and practical issues related to ICT.

Ladies and gentlemen, as you are aware, KDU has come forward in recent years to share a significant proportion of the country's burden in providing high quality tertiary education for its youths, and our achievements in this regard are many. Our desire is to help elevate the country's tertiary education to be on a par with that of the developed world. We are eager to introduce the latest and best facilities for all our faculties in order to ensure that our products will be able to compete with any graduate anywhere in the world. The organization of this workshop itself is one such initiative that is sure to be beneficial for all participants to contribute towards their institutional goals and finally to the country's goal to move forward.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the organizers and in particular to the invited speakers. All of them have been working with us since the beginning of the planning stage of the workshop and they are still here with us, even though they are very busy with their responsibilities at their agencies. We truly appreciate their invaluable assistance.

This workshop would not have been possible without Microsoft Sri Lanka, especially Ms Yashika Jayasinghe and Lt Col Suresh Pakshaweera, Director for the Centre for IT Support and Development Services of KDU, So, let me appreciate them and their teams for the untiring effort in organizing this event.

It is my sincere hope and expectation that every participant would reap maximum benefits from this workshop to develop our education system through quality ICT technologies and Innovative creations.

Finally, let me declare the official opening of the workshop on “Transforming Education for the Digital Age”, and I wish that the workshop would be an immense success. Thank you.

23. Address at KDU International Research Conference 2014 on 21.08.2014

Distinguished members of the audience, ladies and gentlemen, it is my greatest pleasure as the Vice Chancellor of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University to deliver the welcome and introductory address of the KDU international Research Conference 2014.

First, I am greatly honoured and pleased to welcome Hon Dr Sarath Amunugama, Senior Minister of International Monetary Cooperation and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning, who accepted our invitation to grace this occasion as the chief guest and to deliver the keynote address on our theme “Expanding Developmental Horizons through Education, Research and Innovation.” Sir, I am sure that your address will set the right tone for the deliberations of this international research conference, which will be of immense significance for Sri Lanka as well as for other countries that seek development through education, research and innovation.

Next, I warmly welcome Commander of the SL Army, Lt Gen Daya Ratnayake, Commander of the SL Navy, Vice Admiral Jayantha Perera, Commander of the SL Air Force, Air Marshal Kolitha Gunatilleke, Additional Secretary Civil Security and Development Mrs Damayanthi Jayarathne, Treasury Representative Mr Mahinda Saliya, Your Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps, Senior Officers, the Chairperson of the University Grants Commission Prof Kshanika Hirimburegana, Vice Chancellors, distinguished scholars and eminent personalities especially those representing our friendly countries such as the world renowned scientist Prof (Dr) Atta-ur-Rahman from Pakistan, Maj Gen PS Mander from the Indian Army, Maj Gen MD Zahidur Rahman from Bangladesh Army, Maj Gen SM Saffudeen Ahamad, Director General Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) and Dr Smruti Pattanaik (IDSA), Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis of India. And I warmly welcome all the presenters and participants whose contribution will be crucial for the success of the KDU Research Conference 2014.

Ladies and gentlemen, five years after the dawn of peace, Sri Lanka is steadily marching towards development and economic prosperity under the stable and inspiring stewardship of His Excellency the President Mahinda Rajapaksa. The country is no more groping in the dark; instead it is following the clear and sound vision encapsulated in *Mahinda Chinthana: The Way Forward*, which gives

foremost priority for education, research and innovation as essential elements for sustainable development. It is in this backdrop that KDU has deeply pondered over its role and function as a university and taken many initiatives to introduce some crucial and innovative changes in higher education to complement the nation's attempt to expand developmental horizons through education, research and innovation.

KDU has proved that nothing is impossible if done in the right spirit, dedication and commitment. So our innovations in the field of education have paid dividends for the country. A few years ago, the scope of KDU was to produce graduated officers for the armed forces. In contrast, today, its outlook has undergone a vast change, and it proudly caters to the nation's higher educational needs by providing opportunities for civilian day scholars to follow high quality degree programmes in a disciplined environment. Today, we offer every opportunity for Sri Lankan as well as foreign students to become well-sought-after graduates in diverse fields. The target is to produce practically oriented, well disciplined, and patriotic graduates with soft skills essential for enhanced employability.

We have also undertaken a few mega projects that directly impact the expansion of educational opportunities in the country. The establishment of the southern campus of KDU at Sooriyawewa in Hambantota targeting the introduction of some unique degree programmes in the fields of Built Environment, Spatial Sciences etc is a major undertaking targeting expansion of educational opportunities to the periphery thereby ensuring parity in higher education in the country.

KDU hospital, the first ever university hospital in Sri Lanka with facilities for military and civil patient services, clinical trials and high-end laboratory testing, will be ready by August 2015, and it will provide assistance in healthcare for nation building. The establishment of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences of KDU is yet another innovation that helps Sri Lanka to produce nurses, physiotherapists, and other allied health professionals whose service in developing the nation would be of considerable value.

Ladies and gentlemen, the conventional wisdom informs us that education expands horizons of knowledge which in turn facilitates innovation, and thus the rationale for expanding educational opportunities in a country. KDU having clearly understood its responsibility in this regard works as an agent of change in several significant areas in tertiary education in Sri Lanka. Accordingly, we have dedicated ourselves to linking education with research and innovation through several important projects, programmes and initiatives. For instance, KDU is developing its scientific research wing under KDU Institute for Combinatorial Advanced Research

& Education known as KDU-CARE. The objective is to discover, implement and operate state-of-the-art scientific technologies which would enhance KDU's scientific education and medical research capabilities.

KDU-CARE is progressing well and by now it has commenced 11 scientific projects as public private partnerships. We are in the process of establishing KDU-CARE Technology Park in KDU Southern Campus in Hambantota. Moreover, 4 factories – 2 in Sooriyawewa, one in Sewanagala and another in the hill country – will be set up in the coming months. We have attracted significant amount of funds as investments for these ventures. For the first time in Sri Lanka we will be constructing a Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) certified manufacturing plant for producing antibodies and vaccines especially focusing on the production of anti venom for Sri Lankan poisonous snake bites. Further, we have introduced a Dean Research position first time in Sri Lanka to invigorate the research culture in the university. We have established a 24'X7' research laboratory and a state-of-the-art advanced proteomics and genomics laboratory to facilitate the conduct of high-end research at KDU.

We have also introduced attractive incentives to encourage conduct of research, publications in high impact peer reviewed journals, and applications for patents. We believe that these measures we take today will definitely pay dividends for Sri Lanka in the near future.

The initiative taken by the Faculty of Graduate Studies to offer opportunities to read for research degrees at Master's and PhD levels and KDU CARE are expected to generate high caliber researchers required for the country and its development.

Ladies and gentlemen, I make this an opportunity to make the humble claim that, all in all, KDU is playing a leading role in expanding higher educational opportunities in Sri Lanka thereby making a considerable contribution to make Sri Lanka a knowledge hub in Asia as envisaged in *Mahinda Chinthana*.

Ladies and gentlemen, I should also express our grateful thanks to HE the President and his government for their blessings and encouragement for our initiatives; to the Secretary Defence, Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa who is the tower of strength for KDU for his invaluable guidance in his capacity as the Chairman of the Board of Management, KDU; Commanders of the Army, Navy and Air Force, Additional Secretary, Civil Security and Development, and the Treasury Representative as members of the Board of Management for their diverse contributions for the upliftment of KDU.

Ladies and gentlemen, KDU's annual international conference is a major contribution to the creation and dissemination of knowledge. The conference links other universities both local and foreign, higher educational institutions, professional bodies and the industry by providing a platform for their academics and professionals for presentation and publication of research in many fields of specialization.

It is heartening to note that this year the conference secretariat received an overwhelming number of abstracts out of which 195 were selected for presentation through a thorough peer reviewing process. Let us look forward to participating in highly fruitful plenary and technical sessions that will be held today and tomorrow at KDU.

Finally, let me conclude by once again welcoming all the dignitaries, intellectuals, and participants foreign and local and wishing that the deliberations of this conference would mark a positive contribution for the betterment of Sri Lanka, as well as the rest of the world. I conclude by wishing that KDU international Conference will be a fruitful and memorable one for all presenters and participants alike. Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me now have the honour to introduce our keynote speaker, Hon Dr Sarath Amunugama.

Dr Amunugama is a renowned politician and also a reputed scholar whose academic achievements are many. He earned his BA Honours Degree in Sociology from the University of Ceylon in 1961. In 1973, he graduated from University of Saskatchewan in Canada with a Master of Arts in Social Sciences. Dr Sarath Amunugama earned his PhD in Ethnology in 1986 from University of Paris. He was awarded a Visiting Fellowship to Harvard University, USA from 1990 to 1991 exemplifying his stature as a scholar. There are numerous publications in both English and Sinhala to his name; with seven books in English and numerous paper publications. In addition, Dr Amunugama was a Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Ceylon from 1961 to 1962.

In 1962 he passed the civil service examination at high standard to enter the administrative service. Then he served as a chairman, a director and a secretary in many public sector organizations, notably as the Secretary to the Ministry of State, Chairman of Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation, and Secretary General of Asian Mass Communication.

His political career too has been a star-studded one. Having started his illustrious political career in 1992 as a provincial councilor Dr Amunugama entered parliament in 1994 as an opposition MP. He became a minister in 1999 and since then he has been holding many important portfolios such as Rehabilitation, Irrigation & Water Management, Education and Higher Education, Finance and Planning and Industries and Investment Promotion, Public Administration & Home Affairs, Enterprise Development & Investment Promotion, and Public Administration & Home Affairs. In addition, he has served as a Deputy Minister of several ministries and as a Senior Presidential Adviser on Economic & Monetary Affairs.

Hon Dr Amunugama is currently serving as the Senior Minister of International Monetary Cooperation & Deputy Minister of Finance & Planning, and under the current portfolio Dr Amunugama's contribution has been immense. He is in-charge of co-ordination with the Ministries related to Finance, Planning, Economic Development, External Affairs, Foreign Employment, Commerce, Trade, Science, Technology, Industries, Tourism and Aviation aiming the economic development of Sri Lanka. He also oversees the co-ordination and reviewing of policies and development programmes implemented by national and international organizations in order to uplift Sri Lanka's image in the world's economy. Dr Amunugama was also the Country Head appointed by the Sri Lankan Government for International Monetary Fund, World Bank and Asian Development Bank, and in that capacity he participated in numerous International Seminars, Conferences and Workshops.

Ladies and gentlemen, with these exceptional credentials, Hon Dr Amunugama is the ideal personality to deliver the keynote address at this international conference on the theme: "Expanding Developmental Horizons through Education, Research and Innovation."

Let me have the honour to respectfully invite Hon Minister to take the podium. Over to you sir.

24. Welcoming Officer Cadets of Intake 32 on 01.10.2014

Deputy Vice Chancellor - Defence, Deputy Vice Chancellor - Academic, Deans of faculties, faculty members, Adjutant, Registrar, officers, and officer cadets of Intake 32 – Good Morning.

Ladies and Gentlemen of Intake 32, I welcome you to General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University where you will spend next 2 to 3 years. First I would like to congratulate you for getting selected to KDU having competed with many candidates from all over Sri Lanka and I would like to thank you for selecting this noble profession to serve as a worthy member of the Sri Lanka military forces.

I would like to remind you that even though the brutal terrorism which hindered the development of country for almost 30 years was destroyed and the country is on the right path to be peaceful and developed, the job of military officer is crucial and important for a better future of Sri Lanka. A military officer is a worthy leader and an important citizen in achieving military victories and long last peace.

Now, you have joined the noble profession. To accomplish the future goals you have to be trained and taught. At KDU you will be taught how to lead your men wisely as a true leader. KDU is offering you a degree and other relevant training for you to acquire skills that you will be needed to lead your troops. Henceforth, your life will change. There will be many challenges that you have to overcome. Your immediate challenge will be to adjust to a life of an officer cadet. You are no longer with your parents. Your instructors will be your parents and friends during your stay at KDU. You should be very conscious of the fact that your life is changing here. You should never get discouraged thinking that the life at KDU is difficult and tough.

Ladies and Gentlemen! You will be introduced to something that will be little different from the civil society. That is discipline. Discipline is going to become your guideline throughout your life henceforth. It will be a mandatory quality that you will be needed to maintain during your stay here.

Ladies and gentlemen your parents, your friends, relatives and the citizens of this country expect a lot from you. They expect you to become an officer with the finest qualities and high academic proficiency. It is your job now to live up to their expectations. The directing staff, instructors and lecturers are here to help you to achieve that. But your commitment and dedication are the most required and essential factors in doing so.

Ladies and gentlemen! It is a common fact that our university is achieving a vast popularity as one of the best in Sri Lanka. A large amount of money is spent for the training and education. But the government is not hesitant to spend that much of amount due to the fact that this university's role is very important in developing the military forces. KDU has put up many facilities for you including some of the best available among universities in Sri Lanka. You should use these facilities in the best possible ways to improve yourself in all spheres of training. You should approach your instructors for any difficulties that you may face, because they are here to help you.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is expected from you to develop comradeship among yourself as an Intake. You are the proud members of Intake 32 from the day you are enlisted. Keep that in your mind forever. I also make this opportunity to thank your parents, teachers and loved ones for encouraging, supporting and approving your choice to join KDU. All good manners and habits that you have learnt among them will be very useful during you stay here. After the training at KDU, you will proceed to training at the military academics of the services that you have been selected.

In the annual convocation to be held on 30th October 2014 you will see how proud the recipients of KDU degrees would be. They will be proud because they have accomplished what they wanted and richly deserved. Make a promise to yourselves that you too will be graduates like them at the end of your training. That is the ultimate challenge.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish you success in all your endeavors to achieve that ultimate challenge. I also would like to assure you that my staff and I are always ready to help you in all the ways to achieve that challenge.

Finally, I wish to thank you again for selecting this noble profession and for coming forward to serve the nation as a member of the armed services in Sri Lanka. Good luck to all of you. Thank you.

25. Welcome Address at Commemoration of 34th Death Anniversary of General Sir John Kotelawala on 02.10.2014

Air Marshal Kolitha Gunatilleke RWP and bar, RSP, VSV, USP, MSc (Def Studies) in Mgt, MSc (Def & Strat Stu), ndc, psc, qfi, Commander of the Sri Lanka Air Force, the Chief Guest of today's commemoration ceremony, Sir; Madam Gunatilleke: distinguished invitees; kinsmen of Sir John Kotelawala; members of General Sir John Kotelawala Memorial Society; alumni of KDU; ladies and gentlemen, It is with great pleasure that I welcome all of you gathered here to commemorate Gen Sir John Kotelawala, one of the most outstanding leaders of independent Sri Lanka, well known for his exceptional leadership, outspoken personality and unparalleled patriotism.

As you are aware, the commemoration of Late General Sir Lionel John Kotelawala, Companion of Honour, Knight Commander of the British Empire, and Doctor of Laws, and the benefactor of KDU, is a very important annual event at KDU. Today, we commemorate the 34th death anniversary of this great son of Sri Lanka, who remains in our hearts and souls mainly due to his generous gesture of donating this premises for establishing KDU 36 years ago.

We should also remember on this occasion the yeoman service he rendered to this nation as a Minister, and the third Prime Minister of independent Sri Lanka. The things he had done as a state councillor shows the vision of this great leader. His initiative for regional cooperation resulted in the establishment of Afro Asian relations. Another great contribution he made is the introduction of hydroelectric power generation in Ceylon in 1937, a project that had been dragging on from 1924. He was also instrumental in making the Ceylon railway running at a loss a profitable one by implementing his recommendations. He was also the pioneer in developing Air Ceylon, and the Ratmalana Airport is a result of his keen interest. A less known fact is his involvement in the building of the University of Peradeniya. As Sir Claude Corea points out "the University of Peradeniya would never have been completed so quickly and so well but for his efforts."

Hosting the famous Colombo summit in 1954, Sri Lanka's gaining of membership in the United Nations Organization in 1955, the conduct of the Asian African Conference in Bandung, Indonesia in April 1955, and the signing of Neru

Kotelawala pact in 1954 to solve the Indian state workers' problem are some of the key events that took place during Sir John's premiership from 1953 to 1956.

All these together imply his overall vision for developing the country for future generations in the fields of regional cooperation, aviation, railway transportation, hydroelectricity and education on top of which comes his contribution to the field of agriculture as the Minister of Agriculture.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Sir John's mansion in which we house the KDU museum today, the statue at which we paid floral tribute a while ago, and the garden around us monumentalize the stature of this great son of Sri Lanka. As you can see, even 34 years after his demise, we try our best to maintain this place in a manner that befits his stature and personality, and that I believe is a very important reason for the success of KDU; I am sure Sir John's blessings are with us always. Therefore, the best way to pay tribute to Sir John is to elevate KDU to the highest level possible as a leader in higher education, and that is what we are committed for.

KDU today has risen high in the sky and grown fat on land; it has expanded its scope both physically and spiritually providing a considerable service for the nation through innovations in the field of higher education. It has grown from an institute of military education to that of a prestigious state university that shoulders a larger share of responsibility for elevating the country and its economy through competitive excellence in higher education.

Ladies and gentlemen, Sir John is known to have been a man who thought differently and acted differently, and we at KDU follow this trait to expand the higher education landscape of Sri Lanka. We, on one hand elevate our programmes and facilities to international standards and spread them to the periphery through projects such as the establishment of our southern campus at Sooriyawewa. We have taken many steps to enhance research that lead to the country's development and we are diligently pursuing the growth of the university in that area.

Ladies and gentlemen, in my welcome address at the last year's commemoration ceremony, I expressed in detail the contribution that KDU is making towards higher education in the country. But today, I do not think it is necessary to do so because it has become common knowledge in the country. However, all our achievements stand testimony for the dedication of the people involved, both military and civil, who gather here around the statue of this great personality, General Sir John Kotelawala on the first day of every month and sing the national anthem vouching their commitment to KDU and the nation. I am sure by doing so we get the eternal blessings of General Sir John for the right things we are doing.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me now take this opportunity to introduce to you our Chief Guest this evening, who is none other than Air Marshal Kolitha Gunatilleke, Commander of the Sri Lanka Air Force. Sir, let me first of all very cordially and respectfully welcome you along with Madam Gunatilleke to KDU and to the commemoration of the 34rd Death Anniversary of Gen Sir John Kotelawala.

Air Marshal Kolitha Gunatilleke has been a strong supporter of KDU particularly because of his close affinity to KDU as a student of the first batch to be conferred with the Master of Science (Defence Studies) Degree in Management by KDU. So, In his present capacity as the Commander of the Air Force, he is a great strength for KDU in its forward march.

Air Marshal Gunatilleke joined the SLAF in 1980 as an Officer Cadet of the 8th Intake. He graduated from the Air Force Academy, China Bay, and was commissioned a Pilot Officer in April 1982. He was awarded his flying brevet on successful completion of his basic and advanced flying training.

His first tour of duty was with No 2 Transport Squadron where he gained proficiency on the DC 3s, the Riley Herons, and the Avros. It was there that he was picked to become a Flying Instructor. He underwent Flying Instructor Training with the Pakistan Air Force and became a Qualified Flying Instructor. As a transport pilot, he has flown Antonov An 32b, HS-748 Avros, Y-8s, Y-12s, DC -3s and Riley Herons.

As a flying instructor, Air Marshal Gunatilleke has taught many a pilot in the Chipmunk, Cessna 150, Dove, the Cessna 337, Riley Heron Avro, SF 260 TP Pucara, Y-12 as well as the Beechcraft B-200T. Flying the SF 260 TP and the IA 58 Pucara, Air Marshal Gunatilleke saw extensive action and participated actively in the support of all ground operations against the LTTE. His conspicuous gallantry earned him the Rana Wickrama Padakkama and the Rana Sura Padakkama. He has accumulated over 4000 hours of flying in his roles as a transport pilot, an attack pilot and as an instructor. He possesses a VVIP, Master Green Instrument Rating. He has also held the appointment of the Command Instrument Rating Examiner.

Air Marshal Gunatilleke's professional development included training at many overseas training institutions. Notable among them are the Command and Staff College, Pakistan, Joint Air Warfare College in India, Air Command and Staff College in Alabama, USA and National Defence College in Pakistan. He participated in the Executive Course of the Asia Pacific Centre for Security Studies in Hawaii. As mentioned earlier, Air Marshal Gunatilleke earned the Master of

Science (Defence Studies) Degree in Management from KDU as a member of the first MSc programme of KDU.

During his career spanning over three decades, Air Marshal Gunatilleke has commanded No 1 Flying Training Wing and No 2 Transport Squadron. He served as the Staff Officer Operations at Air Force Headquarters. He completed a tenure as Base Commander SLAF China Bay. As Base Commander SLAF Katunayake, Air Marshal Gunatilleke was at the helm of the largest of the SLAF's bases.

He was appointed to Air Force Headquarters as the Director Training in January 2008 and served in that capacity until he was called to take on the responsibility of the appointment of the Director Air Operations. In this capacity he was responsible for the direction of all air operations during the critical latter stages of the Humanitarian Operation, during which the SLAF broke all records in numbers of sorties flown, in the attack, surveillance, CASEVAC and transport roles.

His service decorations and medals include the Vadamarachchi Medal (1989), Armed Service Long Service Medal (1994), Riviresa Campaign Service Medal (1999), North & East Operation Medal (2000), SLAF 50th Anniversary (2001), Uthama Seva Padakkama(2003), Armed Service Long Service Clasp (2003), North & East Humanitarian Medal(2011), and the Vishishta Seva Vibushanaya (2011).

An Avid Sportsman, Air Marshal Gunatilleke had the distinction of being a member of the Badminton National Pool. He has continued his involvement in sports in the sphere of sports administration as well, having held appointments such as President National Rifle Association of Sri Lanka from 2007 to 2009, the Chairman Selection Committee -Badminton in 2010. He serves as the present Chairman of the National Selection Committee.

Air Marshal Kolitha Gunatilleke and his wife Roshani are the proud parents of Anushka. In his times of leisure and relaxation, he enjoys music, social dancing and reading. Ladies and Gentlemen, I take this opportunity to most cordially invite the Chief Guest of this commoration ceremony, Air Marshal Kolitha Gunatilleke to address the gathering. Thank you.

26. Address at the Colours Nite 2014 as the Chief Guest on 14.11.2014

Brigadier Lal Gunasekara, Deputy Vice Chancellor Defence and Administration, Professor TR Weerasooriya, Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic, Deans of Faculties, Registrar, Adjutant, Officers, Members of the Academia, Instructors, Recipients of KDU Colours, parents, and ladies and gentlemen! Good Evening to you!

I'm indeed happy to be the chief guest of the annual Colours Nite in this year as well.

Anyone engaged in any kind of sports should be aware of the aim of participating in sports. Winning every game is not the final result expected. It has broader aims related to individual developments as well as to the development of society as a whole. One of the expectations of sports is to mould people into better human beings. It is achieved through discipline exercised in sports. Further, sports can create people with physical strengths, ability to bare stress, endurance, and more importantly, a better personality. This in turn helps the society at large because it provides well-disciplined and skilled personnel to the society.

Sports help in generating a positive image of a country, and any country expects its sports personnel to excel in their events as it helps to boost the image of the country in the world. Similarly, sportsmen and sportswomen in any organization provide a great strength to that organization by making their flag fly high through their performances, and such is the case with KDU as well. So, today we are honouring a set of sports men and women who performed their best bringing glory to KDU.

General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University always provides maximum opportunities for its undergraduates to improve their skills in sports. Our objective is not only to improve the standard of sports in the University but also to create physically and intellectually skilled persons with a better understanding of society as a whole.

KDU being a military training establishment has other aims also to fulfil through sports. Every military officer needs to possess leadership and management skills, team spirit, a good bearing, a sound personality and an outstanding physical strength. In order to build up such skills and qualities, sports is included as a vital component in any military training programme. As the only Defence University in Sri Lanka, we pay special attention to this aspect in order to provide the best officers for the tri-services.

The increase of colours awarded from mere 65 in 2013 to 118 in 2014 is a significant achievement that can be proudly mentioned. In addition, I would like to highlight some of the noted achievements by KDU sports men and women 2014.

- UOU KDS Perera won the second place in the shot-put event of the World Cadets' Games held in Ecuador.
- 18 KDU undergraduates participated in a sporting event held at BITS University in India, where they won 13 Gold medals and 09 Silver medals having competed with 60 Indian universities and two foreign countries.
- KDU Rugger team won the "Bowl" championship in Malaysia.
- KDU Rugger A team won the cup championship and the B team won the plate championship at the Leaders trophy organized by KDU.
- L/O/Cdt Dannoruwa won the 1st place in the high jump event at the Junior National Meet-2014.
- Our Netball team became the runners up in the Western Province B Division Open Tournament conducted by the Western Province Netball Association. They also became champions in the Colombo District B Division Netball Tournament conducted by the Colombo District Netball Association.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to mention at this point that we have extended the sporting facilities enjoyed by our Officer Cadets to our day scholars as well, so that they also could improve their skills in sports, and instil in themselves all the good attributes from sports to become worthy Sri Lankan citizens with great personalities. Hence, a comprehensive training programme for sports is included as a vital component in the extracurricular programme at KDU, and whenever undergraduates receive colours for their performances in sports, it is added to their Grade Point Average (GPA). This has motivated them to engage more in sports.

Within this process, the University holds the annual Inter-Squadron Meet and participates in many other sports competitions in the country. Significantly, apart from the annual Sports Meet, we were able to hold two important sporting events in this year, the Fittest Swimmer Competition and the Fittest Officer Cadet competition. I'm of the view that these events are also beneficial for the undergraduates in the University to uplift their standards in sports. In addition to these, four years ago, KDU introduced the Leaders Trophy Tournaments in Basketball, Cricket, Rugby and Soccer for students of universities and higher education institutes in Sri Lanka. The objective is to provide a platform for them to exhibit their sporting skills while maintaining the highest spirit in competitions. So, a higher level of sports skills and talents are required for KDU teams to excel in these tournaments. I was extremely happy to witness the Leaders Trophy

Tournament – 2014, and KDU teams have performed well showing very high sporting skills. In this tournament, they were able to record victories by winning championships in Cricket, Rugby, and Netball, and also in Volley Ball, which was introduced for the tournament this year.

Facilities and competitions alone do not create enthusiasm for sports. I believe that it is of utmost importance to recognize ones talents and skills, which would be a morale booster him or her to excel in any field. Furthermore, such recognition can encourage a person to participate in more activities. Colours Nite is such an occasion for you to go back in your memory lane and remember the excellent moments in your sporting career. We organized the Colours Nite with a view to recognizing and appreciating the sports skills of officer cadets, and civil undergraduates of the University. I sincerely believe that this event will give recognition for your sporting skills and create an enthusiasm for sports among the officer cadets and day scholars who are currently undergoing training at the University. I'm sure this event is also an eye opener for all the new sportsmen and women and the sports lovers of KDU.

Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to the organizing committee for conducting this year's Colours Nite with this grandeur, and I wish all the recipients of KDU colours all the best in their future sports endeavours while thanking all those who were doing significant role training, guiding and coaching them to make their achievements. Thank you.

27. Welcoming Officer Cadets and Day Scholars of Intake 32 on 02.01.2015

Deputy Vice Chancellor Defence, Brig Lal Gunasekara, Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Prof Thilak Weerasuriya, Dean Faculty of Graduate Studies Brig Adeepa Thilakarathne, Dean Faculty of Medicine Prof Jayantha Ariyaratne, Dean Faculty of Engineering Prof JP Karunadasa, Dean Faculty of Law, Dr Prathiba Mahanamahewa, Dean Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Col (Dr) Thamashi Makuloluwa, Dean Faculty of Management, Social Sciences and Humanities Dr Manatunga Jayawardane Dean Faculty of Defence Studies Col Chandana Wickramasinghe, Dean Research Prof Asoka Karunananda, Dean Faculty of Spatial Sciences Dr Harindra Lakmal, Registrar Mr EGJ Canagasabey, Department Heads and other academics, officers, parents, and newly selected students for Intake 32.

Good Morning!

At the outset, let me very warmly welcome the newly enrolled officer cadets and day scholars of KDU Intake 32 to this important occasion.

Dear students, I am extremely glad to address you today on this second day of the year 2015. You, with the blessings of your parents, have decided to spend the most crucial three to four years of your lives with us at KDU either as officer cadets of the tri-services or as day scholars. So, I thank you and your parents for the trust you placed on us at KDU, and I congratulate you on being selected to KDU having competed with a very large number of applicants who sought placements in our degree programmes this year.

I am glad that this year too we have quite a large segment of international students from the Maldives, Bhutan, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Egypt, and children of some Sri Lankan expatriates in USA, Canada, UAE and several other countries. Ladies and gentlemen, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to KDU as well as to Sri Lanka. We appreciate your decision to select KDU for your higher education. Please be assured that we will make every effort to look after all of you as children of the KDU family. Also at this point, I would like to request the local students to extend the highest degree of hospitality and brotherhood to your colleagues from other countries and live up to our reputation as a hospitable nation. So you must take care of them as close friends.

Dear students, KDU, as you are aware, is a defence university. So, it is very clear that its primary function is to produce graduates in various fields necessary for the armed forces, and until 2011, KDU was limited to that role. However, with the dawn of peace in 2009, KDU realized its potential to expand its services to the civil society, and we considered it a national responsibility. So, from 2012 we opened up our facilities to civilian day scholars to read for our degrees along with military cadets. Since then there has been an increasing demand for our degree programmes by large numbers of students qualified to receive university education but are unable to do so due to limited capacity in the state university system.

Dear day scholars, you are the fourth batch of students who have gained access to KDU this way. So, the classes in which you will study will have officer cadets and commissioned officers of the army navy and air force. There will be some police officers too in the LLB programme. Therefore, you must keep it in mind that you do not disrupt the discipline of the establishment by any sort of unnecessary behavior. You must strictly adhere to our codes of ethics and conduct, by-laws and other regulations so that you can achieve your goals without any hindrance. So, we expect a high degree of discipline from our day scholars too.

Officer Cadets must abide by strict rules and regulations because we train you to take leadership responsibilities in the armed forces. Remember that you are no more civilians. You must adjust yourselves to the military life style and you have already received a basic training and an orientation at respective military academies. But you have now got to adjust yourselves to the environment at KDU where you interact with officer cadets of the other services, day scholars and commissioned officers studying together in the same classes.

Officer Cadets' honour code says, "Cadets will not lie, cheat or steal, nor tolerate those who do." We expect similar level of honesty and integrity from all KDU day scholars too. You should always remember that this is one of the positive features we have at KDU. We train and educate young men and women in a much disciplined environment. This is a great quality that you will inherit from KDU. When you pass out from KDU, you will always have an edge in the modern employment market that demands disciplined people with sound academic qualifications.

Dear students, I am sure every one of you is very happy to have been admitted to KDU and you are full of expectations. However, I request you to make it a point that you will work very hard to earn your degrees. Try hard in healthy competition to end up with a good class degree. Forget about your z scores and believe in hard work and excel in studies. On our part we will ensure that you get all the necessary

guidance, facilities, and resources. But, it is up to you to work hard and graduate yourselves with good classes.

Officer Cadets are paid to learn. So, in addition to the free education, you are paid a salary with public money. Therefore, you have a greater responsibility work hard and get maximum benefits from facilities provided to you for your higher education.

Dear students, we always encourage healthy competition among all students. In the case of day scholars, we will provide a 25% scholarship if you do well at semester end exams and qualify yourselves to be in the Dean's list of your respective faculties. And remember, if you become eligible to be in the Vice Chancellor's list you will earn a 50% scholarship. So be determined to work hard and work extra hours to relieve your parents' financial burden by winning a scholarship.

Ladies and gentlemen, KDU is fast expanding in its scope of activities. We do not stay stagnant and sit back on our laurels. Ours is now a fully-fledged university with nine faculties. Two of them are in our Southern Campus at Sooriyawewa in Hambanthota, which becomes operative within this month with the commencement of several new degree programmes in areas such as architecture and quantity surveying under the Faculty of Built Environment and Spatial Sciences. Also, we established our Faculty of Allied Health Sciences at Werahera last month and those of you who are doing Allied Health Science degree programmes will be moving straight away into a new faculty complex with all modern amenities.

The Medical Faculty complex was established three years ago with all the modern facilities. KDU's state-of-the-art hospital at Werahera will be opened this year as one of the most modern hospitals in South Asia. When you go out of this building you can see the first phase of the Engineering faculty building nearing completion. All these facilities will provide you with the best in terms of physical resources. When it comes to human resources, our faculties consist of some of the best academics in the country and they are fully committed to help you in your academic pursuits.

With all these our university is achieving a vast popularity nationally and internationally as one of the best universities in Sri Lanka and in the region. Our degree programmes have been recognized by the University Grants Commission in Sri Lanka and we provide some of the best facilities a state university in Sri Lanka could offer for its students. The Engineering students will be given the much needed exposure for industrial training and our engineering degrees will soon get the IESL recognition. Students reading for LLB will, on graduation, be able to write for the

final examination at Law College Sri Lanka and become fully-fledged Attorneys-at-Law.

Ladies and gentlemen, all degree programmes of KDU are benchmarked with those of internationally recognized universities and professional bodies. Some of the degree programmes such as Aeronautical Engineering, Marine Engineering, Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and Biomedical Engineering are offered only by KDU in Sri Lanka. KDU is always futuristic and we introduce new degree courses that will have a higher demand in the national and international job market. We are always on the lookout for new trends in education and in the industry so that we can incorporate changes in our curricula whenever necessary.

We will ensure you that you will graduate on scheduled time and complete your degrees much before your counterparts in other universities. We ensure that your education process will not be affected by unwanted disruptions such as ragging, strikes, student protests and all sort of antisocial and disturbing activities.

I request day scholars to keep in mind that if anyone of you resort to such activities we will not hesitate to discharge you on disciplinary grounds as we do in the case of our officer cadets. But, I am confident that none of you will face such problems because your senior intakes of civilian students have made it clear that they are so very disciplined and are only inclined to education. Their conduct has always been appropriate for KDU.

Please read through the instructional manual very carefully and adhere to the requirements therein fully. Of course we will assist you in all aspects to adjust yourselves to familiarize yourselves with the new environment.

Dear students, your parents, friends, relatives and all citizens of this country expect a lot from you. It is your responsibility to live up to their expectations. In case of any difficulties, please approach your lecturers and instructors and seek their assistance to sort them out. They are here to help you. If you are weak in certain subjects you may request for additional classes and assistance.

Our endeavour is to produce high quality, disciplined graduates who will be positive minded and possessing leadership and managerial skills. Such graduates will be citizens of their respective countries, who could enhance the productivity of their nations. However, be aware that you can achieve this only if you are committed and dedicated to your role as students.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we at KDU strive hard to produce all-round personalities and not just book worms. You are aware that a grave problem in our country today is that there are many graduates without jobs. But, if you go through newspapers you can see hundreds of vacancies advertised daily. But there aren't qualified people to fill those vacancies. What is the reason for this mismatch? The reason is that employers are concerned about the employability of the graduates. A recent research has shown that employers' consideration of academic qualifications is only about 35% and the rest is on their soft skills such as communication skills, leadership, team work, flexibility, creativity, sociability, and so on and so forth.

This is an area where KDU is much ahead of other universities. So, I encourage you all to take part in sports activities, diverse club activities, and various other functions organized by the university targeting the development of necessary skills and qualities in you to make you marketable and employable graduates with a greater demand in the competitive world of today.

Ladies and gentlemen, we being a defence university pay much attention to the physical fitness of our students. We believe in the motto, "healthy mind in a healthy body." So, we encourage your active participation in sports activities. We add a percentage of marks to the raw marks you get at your exams if you excel in sports. You can earn 8% extra marks if you win KDU colours, 15% if you perform at national level and 20% if you win places at international competitions. So let me request you to make use of the wonderful gymnasium, swimming pool, and all the other sports facilities available at KDU to develop yourselves into balanced personalities that the modern world is demanding today.

Let me finally wish you success in all your endeavors to achieve ultimate challenges of life. I also would like to assure you that my staff and I are always ready to help you in all possible ways to meet such challenges successfully.

In conclusion, I welcome you once again to this unique and prestigious university. I also make this an opportunity to thank your parents, teachers and loved ones for encouraging, supporting and approving your choice to join KDU. May your academic career at KDU be a fruitful one that will usher in great opportunities in years to come. I wish you good luck. Thank you.

28. Address at the Certificate Awarding Ceremony of the English Language Course for SLAC Officers Conducted by London Stanfords College on 31.01.2015

Chief Executive Officer of London Stanfords College in Sri Lanka, Maj Gen NA Ranasinghe RSP VSV USP ndc psc (ret'd), Comd Armd Bde Brig RGU Rajapakshe RSP psc, Centre Comdt SLAC Brig NI De Silva RSP, Staff of London Stanfords College, Instructors, Participant Officers, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am glad to participate in this ceremony for the awarding of certificates to those who have successfully completed this 12 day high intensity English course, one that was especially tailor-made for military officers and was conducted by London Stanfords College in Sri Lanka.

In fact, I do not need to make a special emphasis on the importance of English for our present day life. Every one of you are aware that today we live in a global family. And the language used in this family is English whether we like it or not. That is why even the people in countries like China have begun to learn English more seriously. They have realized that it is through this truly international language that they can communicate with the rest of the world to prosper in international trade etc. So if we need to be successful in the global family we must learn to use this wonderful language that links nations far and wide. The opportunities for those who know English are much more than for those who do not know it.

When it comes to the military, knowing English is almost a must. As you are aware we inherited military traditions, customs, and its ways of life from the British, and accordingly English has been part and parcel of military training in Sri Lanka right from the beginning. So, Sri Lanka military continued to maintain that link with the English language although school and university education started to be given in local languages. However, we notice that there is deterioration in the quality of English among our officer ranks with the increase of numbers during the last three to four decades. That is why we need to take special measures like the present one to improve English language skills of our officers.

Today we are enjoying a time of peace. Therefore, we have the freedom to expand our knowledge in various fields of specialization. There are lots of opportunities

locally and abroad for higher education. For example, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University has – in addition to various short courses and certificate and diploma level courses – several bachelors and master’s degree programmes. You could even go on and get a PhD if you are so determined. So, we have the most appropriate environment to make our Services the most educated ones in the region. But, we cannot achieve that if we are poor in English because English is the medium of instruction in most of these courses. Also, we need English to do self-studies, for which all of us have the access through the internet.

The importance of English is not only for your military career. You can consider it as a lifelong investment. We in the military have the advantage of getting our retirement early, and we can find very useful employment in the corporate sector in Sri Lanka or in foreign countries. Our military experience and the leadership traits we have developed in our career provide us better acceptance. The best example available here is Maj Gen Ranasinghe, the Chief Executive Officer of the London Stanford College in Sri Lanka. But, if you are poor in English you will not be able to find good placements.

Speaking of Armour Officers, I should emphasize that in the recent past we have come forward in many spheres. Particularly we are doing well in the field of sports. Similarly, we want our officers and men to shine in every sphere of cavalry life. So to be better officers you must sharpen your English skills both spoken and written. I know that most of our officers can manage to speak English, but the majority of them are poor in writing.

We have had armour officers of the highest calibre, legendary figures who were excellent English speakers and writers. We were really fortunate as young officers to work under them and mould ourselves to reach the highest levels. Unfortunately, the standards have gradually deteriorated, and today the large majority of officers barely manage with some working knowledge of English. So, you need to understand this problem and work towards changing this situation individually as well as collectively. I believe that the course you have just completed, though a very short one, is an excellent opportunity for you to open up and discover your weaknesses as well as potentials in English. I can see in your faces that the course has aroused your enthusiasm to learn the language more. Consider this as an opening and keep accumulating knowledge. Make sure that you continue to use

English in order to improve your skills. It is the enthusiasm, desire and willingness to learn that will keep you on track. Another way to improve is to teach. Teach what you learnt to others, may be to your subordinates. Use the internet beyond the usage of the social media. Try to expand your knowledge on areas of interest by reading articles in web sites. You must aim at improving your own English skills while helping the armour family. It is only then you will be able to become an excellent officer who your subordinates will look up to.

So, let me wish all the participants of this English course all the very best. I hope that this short course would be the launching pad for years of learning and achievements to form an excellent military career.

Finally, let me thank London Stanfords College, the administrators, teachers, and especially the Chief Executive officer Maj Gen NA Ranasinghe for providing this opportunity and we hope that the college will continue to help our officers to improve their English in the future as well. Thank you.

29. Address at the Soft Opening of the Southern Campus of KDU on 11.02.2015

Rector of the Southern Campus, Brig Lal Gunasekara, Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Prof Thilak Weerasuriya, Deans of Faculties, Academics, Registrar and other administrative staff, Adjutant, officers, parents, and students of Intake 32.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me very warmly welcome all of you to this important occasion of the soft opening of the Southern Campus of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.

On 6th February 2014, we laid the foundation stone for the construction of this campus. Today, we have been able to open the campus just after one year and five days, with two new faculties functioning their operations in academic activities. This signifies the recent success of KDU in being able to set goals and achieve them as planned overcoming difficulties. Let me begin by extending my sincere thanks to everyone who contributed in various ways to make this collective effort a reality, another significant milestone in KDU's journey towards success.

As a state university that is well aware of its national responsibility, KDU always considers how best it could contribute for the well-being of the nation. So, as our staff present here are aware, we took many initiatives during the recent years to upgrade the quality of our courses and to increase the scope of our service to the nation. In this effort, we have been able to expand the university by establishing Faculties for Defence & Strategic Studies, Engineering, Medicine, Law, Management, Social sciences and Humanities, Allied Health Sciences and for Graduate Studies.

Not only did we establish these faculties, but we also made them fully-fledged faculties with all the necessary infrastructure and human resources. Today, we are opening the academic activities of this southern campus by commencing the operation of 8th and 9th KDU faculties – the Faculty of Built Environment and Spatial Sciences and the Faculty of Computing making this day an important and historic one.

Ladies and gentlemen, in establishing this campus at Sooriyawea, we received the state patronage with the allocation of this land and necessary funds to the tune of 850 million rupees for the construction work from the special development initiative

of the government through the involvement of the Presidential Secretariat. So, we are thankful to the former President, former Secretary to the President and former Secretary Defence for extending their support for this project. We are also thankful to the present government headed by His Excellency the President Maithreepala Sirisena, the State Minister of Defence Hon Ruwan Wijewardane and the Secretary Defence Mr BMUD Basnayake for continuing the state patronage for this important project.

Ladies and gentlemen, so far we have utilized over 650 million rupees from the funds allocated for the construction work. But I should say that the value of this establishment is much more than the sum spent considering the manpower provided and services rendered by the Sri Lanka Navy and the Sri Lanka Army. Therefore I would like to express our thanks to the SL Army for the initial task of moving earth and constructing the road network and to the SL Navy for undertaking the total responsibility of the construction work.

I express my gratitude to the Army and the Navy and to all personnel involved for accomplishing these mammoth tasks fully and on time. I would also like to express my thanks to the private companies and sub-contractors for completing the tasks assigned to them on time.

Ladies and gentlemen, this campus we launch in Sooriyawewa today is an investment for the future of our nation. KDU is well aware of its responsibility to reap benefits of this investment for the nation, and we are confident of our capability of doing so.

On the one hand, the establishment of this campus will help us to expand higher educational opportunities for the youth in Sri Lanka, and on the other hand the nation will benefit by the production of professionals in essential fields of specialization such as Architecture, Quantity Surveying, Surveying Sciences etc. We expect that they will make an important contribution to the national development of the country. Also, our effort is to make our degrees internationally acceptable ones, and it will open doors for Sri Lankans to enter into the competitive job market in the world.

For example, our BSc graduates in Built Environment and Spatial Sciences will be recognized locally by Sri Lanka Institute of Architects (SLIA) and internationally by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

The location of this campus is also significant. Although we call this the Southern campus, its location in Sooriyawewa bordering the Sabaragamuwa and Uva provinces will have an influence in the higher education landscape of these three

provinces. As a result, the campus will expand the higher educational opportunities for the youth in these provinces. Ladies and gentlemen, we are all aware that in the past, these three provinces have produced men and women who acted as architects of national defence and security. They, from time to time, led the nation in fighting against threats for territorial integrity and freedom. So, in a way, this move from the country's defence university to open a campus in this central area is a tribute to such people and the generations that descend from those heroic ancestors. We are going to arm their present generations with knowledge and skills to continue their service in modern contexts.

Dear students, at the moment your intake consists of 45 officer cadets and 37 day scholars, and you could be proud that you are the first batch of students in this campus. We want you all to study hard and perform well with determination and enthusiasm. But, I also want you to keep in mind that KDU moulds its students to go beyond achieving selfish and personal goals alone.

So, remember that you have a responsibility for yourselves, your families and also for the nation. You must work as hard as possible to achieve the maximum, individually as well as collectively as an intake. You should do so irrespective of whether you are officer cadets, or day scholars.

Work as a team and set an example for those who follow in the subsequent intakes. That is how you could train yourselves to be good team players acceptable to modern organizations.

The qualified staff members who have offered to serve in this campus can be proud of their pioneering role, and the sacrifices that you make today are for the future of our nation.

I request you to dedicate your knowledge and expertise for the nation. Please do involve yourselves and your students in research, especially contributing to the research on green concepts, built environment, gravimetric & spatial science and computing fields. I am sure you have the potential to go for great innovations. And remember that KDU is always there to assist you in such efforts, and we look up to you to be pioneers in bringing about change for the betterment of mankind. So be involved yourselves fully in your academic and professional lives so that you could reap benefits for you, KDU, and the country. That I emphasize is your responsibility.

I have a message for the parents as well. We are grateful to you for deciding to send your children to the new Southern Campus by trusting KDU. Naturally people are

reluctant to welcome change. But history has shown that it is the people who take calculated risks who end up with success. So, we must be determined to prove that our decision is right. Let me therefore request parents to encourage their children to do their best. On our side, let me give you the assurance that KDU will reciprocate by doing its best to give your children the most appropriate educational environment.

In conclusion, let me once again express my thanks to everyone who contributed to the establishment of this campus especially to the SL Navy and the SL Army for the immeasurable contribution for the construction of the campus in such quick time. Let me also extend my best wishes to the new rector Brigadier Lal Gunasekera and the Deans Prof Asoka Karunananda and Dr Ravindra Lakmal and all other academics of this campus. May you have the desire, courage and stamina to steer this campus towards success keeping in mind the great KDU motto “*Siya Ratatamai Kawadath*”, or “For the Motherland Forever”. Let me conclude by wishing that this campus would be a shining star in the field of higher education in Sri Lanka. Thank you

30. Welcome Address at the Inauguration of the Third CTHE Course of KDU on 13.02.2015

Deputy Vice Chancellor Defence Brigadier Ruwan Kulathunga, Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Prof. Tilak Weerasuriya, Deans of Faculties, Academics, Officers, Ladies and gentlemen, Good morning!

I am pleased to very warmly welcome you, the participants registered for the third Annual Certificate in Teaching in Higher Education (CTHE) programme conducted by the Staff Development Centre of KDU.

As you are aware, following a CTHE course is an essential requirement for all university academics. On the one hand, it is a prerequisite for your promotions as academics, and on the other hand, you cannot deliver the service expected from you as academics fully, if you do not acquire the essential knowledge and skills for your academic profession imparted through this course.

Ladies and gentlemen, having understood the paramount importance of training our academics and keeping them in touch with the modern nuances of university teaching, we established our Staff Development Centre in 2012, and we initiated the first CTHE programme at KDU in the same year. Before that our academics followed the CTHE programmes conducted by other universities such as Colombo and Kelaniya. So, today, we can be proud that KDU is self-sufficient in teacher training aspect as well.

As the Vice Chancellor, I am glad that our SDC was able to complete the first two courses successfully. I am aware that these two courses were very comprehensive, and the SDC, under our guidance and instructions, did its best to closely follow the UGC standards with respect to Higher Education for the Twenty First Century (HETC) manual. Also we are glad that we were able to use all in-house experts as well as outside experts whenever necessary, to maintain a good pool of resource persons representing different fields to guide the academic staff in a multi skill based approach. I am sure that this mix of multi-disciplinary expertise plus the multi-disciplinary participants would be ideal for making the course all the more interesting as a unique teaching and learning experience. I also see that it encourages inter disciplinary dialogue and networking that best serves the interests of our university. This is what I gathered from the feedback I got from some of the participants in earlier courses.

My expectation from you in this third programme is that you will perform even better than the previous two batches. I want you all to take this course very seriously and make the maximum out of the course. I request you to prove that you are an exceptional set of academics who will be trend setters in the future. You must keep in mind that academics are the lifeblood of a university. The quality of a university is judged by the quality of its academics. What matters more is not the academic qualifications you have got, but your ability to impart your knowledge well and efficiently. I am sure the CTHE programme will help you to make a self-assessment of yourselves in order to make yourselves better academics.

Some people snobbishly/ foolishly believe that they are the experts in their fields and therefore none can challenge them. But, I am sure proper academics would never think so. The more they know, the more humble they become. So, in this course, in addition to gaining the skills in teaching you also need to develop sound attitudes towards this great profession. You need to discover the need to be humble, lifelong learners. I think, at this point, it is appropriate to remind you the old adage that says, “he who knows that he doesn’t know, knows something better than he who doesn’t know that he doesn’t know.” This summarises the all-important need for being humble as learners. I am sure you all will be humble learners to earn respect as capable and skilful teachers.

With our local & international expansion, it is probable that KDU will be facing challenges in the higher education industry of Sri Lanka. Therefore it is vital for us to launch trendy educational programmes anticipating student satisfaction levels not only in the local learner segment but also in the international learner segment. So, I hope that the CTHE programme would empower our young academics to face possible challenges with confidence so that they will ensure that the journey of KDU will be a successful one.

Ladies and gentlemen, the success of this course will surely lie in its organization. Let me therefore express my sincere thanks to Director SDC, Dr Marikkar for the dedication and commitment he shows in organizing this course and many other programmes aimed at staff development at KDU. Let me also convey my sincere thanks to all resource personnel for their invaluable contribution without which this course would not be a success. Finally, let me congratulate all of you, the participants for being able to register in this course. Please accept my best wishes for a very pleasant and productive experience that will provide useful support for your career development in the future. Thank you.

31. Address at the Opening of the National Indoor Rowing Championship - 2015 Held at KDU on 26.02.2015

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am indeed honoured to have been invited to be the chief guest at the opening ceremony of the first ever National Indoor Rowing Championship that will be held on three consecutive days starting from today. So, let me begin by thanking the organizing committee for the same.

As the Chairman of the Rowing Club of the Sri Lanka Army, I have always had the enthusiasm in this wonderful sport. I always encouraged young, budding sportsmen and women to take up challenges in this sporting event. It was this same interest that compelled me to extend our support to Bolgoda Lake Rowing Club (BLRC) to initiate a Championship in Indoor Rowing in Sri Lanka a few years ago. As a result, we, BLRC and KDU, were able to jointly organize the first Indoor Rowing Championship in 2010. Although the participation was limited to a few clubs and schools along with the SL Army and KDU, the event showed us its potential for expanding this sport. It also enthused us to do better in the subsequent events. Accordingly, we were able to hold this championship in 2011 and 2013 expanding and propagating it in terms of quality, age group categories, number of participants and in the number of participating clubs and organizations. Today BLRC and KDU take pride in being able to hold this year's championship as the first National Indoor Rowing Championship in Sri Lanka, and our sincere wish is that it would continue to attract many more sports lovers in the country so that we could compete in Asian and international games soon.

Ladies and gentlemen, we all can be happy about the distance we have travelled so far in the last five years. But we must be determined to develop this sport further in order to reach international competitions and win places in such competitions bringing glory to the motherland. That I think is what we should aim at today. So, let me request the young competitors taking part in this championship to be determined to work harder, to sharpen their skills and qualify for Asian competitions in the near future. I also request the coaches and trainers to identify new talents and train them for higher achievements.

Ladies and gentlemen, KDU as a state university considers that sports and education should go hand in hand. It is essential for building balanced personalities with sound physical and mental health. This in turn is essential for building a healthy nation. So our attempt today will bear fruits in years to come benefitting future generations. It is with this vision that we involved ourselves with the organization of this championship. Accordingly, rowing was introduced to Officer Cadets of KDU six

years back and the participants displayed exceptional skills at indoor rowing meets organized by KDU and Bologoda Lake Rowing Club. Due to the commitment and dedication of both the players and the officers of KDU, we were also able to play a major role in organizing the annual championships as we do in this year's championship as well. I'm sure that KDU has done its duty to the best of its ability to uplift the standard of indoor rowing in Sri Lanka. I should also appreciate the role played by the BLRC. If it was not for their interest and perseverance, we would not have been able to realize the achievements we have made so far. So, my sincere thanks should go to the membership and the office bearers of the club for all the hard work they do.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to appreciate all the sponsors, coaches, members of rowing clubs in Sri Lanka, and the schools that contributed immensely for the success of this grand event. I am also thankful to the parents of school children for encouraging their children to take part in indoor rowing. Finally, I would like to thank the organizing committee for all the hard work done. I congratulate all the participants of this competition, and I wish all of you good luck for your future sporting career. Thank you.

32. Welcome Address at the Closing Ceremony of the National Indoor Rowing Championship-2015 on 27.02.2015

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset I thank the organizing committee for inviting me to deliver the welcome address at this closing ceremony of the first ever National Indoor Rowing Championship organized by General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University and the Bolgoda Lake Rowing Club (BLRC).

Ladies and gentlemen, today is a very special day for indoor rowing in Sri Lanka, a day that goes to history as one that marked a highly successful conclusion of the first ever national indoor rowing championship in the country. So those of us who are here today, especially those who competed in this championship will, I am sure, have cherished memories of this important day for many years to come.

Ladies and gentlemen, with the establishment of the National Indoor Rowing Championship, we have moved this sport onto a different plane. And therefore, to take it further, we consider that it is necessary to have some kind of state patronage and recognition for this sport. So, we invited the Minister of Sports Hon Navin Dissanayake and the Deputy Minister Hon. Wasantha Senanayake for this event. It is heartening to mention that both of them very kindly accepted our invitation though they were not able to be here due to their busy schedules. However, they have expressed their endorsement and blessings for the event as well as for the future of indoor rowing in the country.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are extremely glad that the Secretary to the Ministry of Tourism and Sports Mr MIM Rafeek is here with us today gracing this occasion as our chief guest. Mr Secretary, on behalf of the organizers, I very warmly welcome you to KDU and to the finale of this historic indoor rowing championship. We feel honoured by your presence here today, and your presence is also a great source of encouragement for the competitors and for us, the organizers, to work harder for the benefit of this sport.

I would also like to welcome for this occasion all the distinguished invitees. Your presence encourages us greatly and we look forward to your continued support and good wishes to carry forward indoor rowing in Sri Lanka.

Mr. Secretary, I consider it necessary to enlighten you on the role of Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) in organizing this event. Six years back, we introduced Rowing to KDU Officer Cadets and they showed great potentials in rowing. At the same time this gave them an opportunity to involve in indoor rowing, and KDU was able to join hands with the Bolgoda Lake Rowing Club (BLRC) to organize a Championship in 2010 where our officer cadets displayed exceptional skills in this new sport. Encouraged by the success of the event and the keen enthusiasm of officer cadets and KDU officers involved, KDU and BLRC went on to jointly organize Championships in 2011, 2012 and 2013, and they showed continuous and steady progress all the way to this first ever national championship that we are concluding today. So, as a national university, we are glad of the role we have been playing in uplifting a sport which has the potential to produce international level sportsmen and women for Sri Lanka. Mr. Secretary, we are hopeful and also determined that the players we produce today will win places in Asian and other international competitions in indoor rowing soon.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me also take this opportunity to congratulate the winners and to encourage those who could not end up as winners. Winning and losing are secondary in sports. And in a way, losers are winners as the defeat helps them to grow in their psychological stature. Both winners and losers can be equal in their victory in enhancing physical strength, endurance, agility, flexibility and all other benefits that involvement in sports would give us. Overall, all participants are winners because the participation itself gives them the opportunity to enhance their overall personality, which is the main aim in sports.

So, before I conclude, let me once again welcome our chief guest this evening Mr. Rafeek and request him, on behalf of all lovers of indoor rowing, for the much needed patronage and assistance at the ministerial level to carry forward this wonderful sport in Sri Lanka to reach international standards.

Finally, let me conclude by warmly welcoming all of you who are here as invitees, participants, officials, spectators and well-wishers and also by thanking every one of you who has contributed for the success of this event, especially our sponsors, coaches, and all those who took a lot of effort to organize this event giving it the grandeur it deserves. Thank you.

33. Keynote Address at Counselling Workshop on 10.03.2015

Deputy Vice Chancellors, Deans, Registrar, Heads of Departments, Members of the Academic Staff, Administrative Staff, ladies and gentlemen. Good morning.

Let me begin by thanking the organizers for inviting me to deliver the key note address at this annual Counselling Workshop organized by the Department of Social Sciences of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University. It is indeed a pleasure for me to address you today.

Ladies and gentlemen, in the recent past KDU has kept many strides forwards as a university, which has earned us a name nationally as well as internationally as a unique tertiary educational institution. Today, we are the only Defence University in the world with 9 faculties and offering undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in a variety of disciplines world. We are also unique in offering high quality educational opportunities for civilian students studying along with officer cadets and officers of the tri-services. Also, we have reached international standards in our resources both human and material. As a result we have been able to attract many foreign students from various countries to follow our courses, and the numbers are steadily increasing. Further, we try our best to enhance research in the country by providing modern facilities required and by creating the necessary environment for conducting research. Further, we try our best to disseminate knowledge through various programmes. This workshop on counselling is one such important event that our Department of Social Sciences initiated last year with our guidance. So, as the Vice Chancellor, I am glad to see that a workshop on counselling has become an annual event, and I congratulate the Dean Faculty of Management, Social Sciences and Humanities Dr. Jayawardane who, as the then Head of the Department of Social Sciences, took the initiative to commence this workshop last year. I also congratulate the present HOD, Dr Lakshika Liyanage and her staff for continuing with the programme with a lot of enthusiasm.

The theme for the last year's workshop was, "*Coping with Changes: Skills and Theoretical Base for Professionals*". The response for this initial workshop, which was a well-attended one, was really good; the very positive feedback received from the participants encouraged us to make the workshop an annual occurrence at KDU.

So, I have given my blessings and fullest support for this workshop and hope that the present workshop will be even more productive than the last year's one.

Counselling, as I understand, is a field of expertise that gains increasing popularity in modern contexts. However, we all know that counselling is not a new concept at all. Human history has produced great counsellors in the form of great religious leaders like the Lord Buddha, Jesus Christ and Prophet Mohommad and also in the form of great philosophers like Socrates, Plato, Aristotle and even Mahathma Gandhi to name a few, and we could reckon them as all-time counsellors and we look up to their words and advice even to-date. Culturally, Sri Lankans are a nation that seeks counselling from respected adults and from those experienced in various fields. However, the contemporary life along with its diverse needs has become so very complex that the need has arisen for professional counselling for increasingly large numbers of people who suffer from various complications in their personal, social and even professional lives. So the theme of this year's workshop, *'Fostering Resilience and Working with Stress'* is a highly pertinent one. The aim of the workshop, I am told, is to enhance awareness among professionals on occupational stress and stress handling mechanisms in order to increase their motivation and productivity. I believe that it addresses the crux of a problem that we face both in public and private sector organizations in Sri Lanka. – Of course, we, in the armed forces, have gone through the mill and have vastly improved our stress handling mechanisms and we have proved our flair for motivation and high productivity as well.

Ladies and gentlemen, stress has become a very common term in our day-to-day lives. It is accountable for many failures in the highly competitive contemporary society, employment, business, work and in life commitments. Stress has been identified as what our bodies and minds experience as we adapt to a continually and rapidly changing environment. Thus, even without our awareness our psychological health starts deteriorating leading to issues in our physical health as well. Recently, much has been reported about stress and its relationship with many health problems, such as diabetes, heart diseases, blood pressure, depression, gastritis and even obesity. Therefore, experts in the field point out the necessity for us to identify the different internal and external stressors as well as physical, mental, behavioural and emotional symptoms of stress so that we could develop positive coping mechanisms to manage stress in our lives to avoid health issues that could be caused by prolonged stress.

'Occupational Stress' or 'Work-related Stress' has been identified as the response people may have when presented with work demands and pressures that are not compatible with their knowledge and abilities. A healthy job is likely to be one

where the pressures on employees are appropriate in relation to their abilities and resources, to the amount of control they have over their work, and to the support they receive from people who matter to them. According to the WHO (1986) definition on health, “health is not merely the absence of disease or infirmity but a positive state of complete physical, mental and social well-being.” Therefore a healthy working environment is one in which there is not only an absence of harmful conditions but also the presence of an abundance of health-promoting ones. So the awareness developed through this kind of workshops will make us our own counsellors to make ourselves mentally and physically fit and to manage stress for the wellbeing of individuals, organizations and society as a whole.

As the conference player indicates, the organizers have ensured the availability of a very eminent panel of resource persons at this workshop. I’m sure they will help you to reflect on your own working conditions and that of your colleagues, subordinates, friends and relatives so that you could better adjust yourselves to the conditions and you could help others around to do so as well. In other words, you would be able to get adjusted while giving a rational base and recover from possible vulnerabilities of the mind. This will also help you to be motivated to become smart and successful individuals, professionals and social beings. The workshop will empower you to help your peers and subordinates to get benefited in their roles in their respective organizations.

With these few ideas on the importance of being aware of stress and related aspects to achieve success as professionals in various fields, and more importantly as healthy human beings, I would like to conclude my address wishing the participants all the very best. I sincerely wish that you all would be able to have a wonderful experience while learning some of the theoretical, scientific and practical aspects of stress and stress management during this workshop, and may that experience help you to groom your professional lives to achieve great success.

Finally, let me once again appreciate the initiative of the Department of Social Sciences for running a workshop of this nature, which is timely and useful to all of us. I thank everyone who contributed for this effort and wish them all success in this workshop and energy and stamina to conduct such useful programmes in the future as well. Thank you.

34. Welcome Address at 118th Birth Anniversary of Sir John Kotelawala on 04.04.2015

Hon Ruwan Wijewardena, State Minister of Defence, General Rohan De S Daluwatte, Chancellor of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Defence & Administration) Maj Gen Ruwan Kulathunga, Kingsmen of General Sir John Kotelawala, distinguished invitees, members of General Sir John Kotelawala Memorial Association, alumni of KDU, officers, academics, ladies and gentlemen, Yet again, we are gathered here to commemorate the birth anniversary of the benevolent philanthropist and our benefactor, the late General Right Honourable Sir John Lionel Kotelawala, Companion of Honour, Knight Commander of the British Empire and Doctor of Laws, and this happens to be the 118th birthday of this great son of Sri Lanka.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as the incumbent Vice Chancellor of this unique University named in honour of its benefactor, I take this opportunity to warmly welcome all of you gathered here to pay tribute an astute and sagacious statesman, a leader who is gratefully remembered for the eminent role he played in the service of the nation, first as a Colonel in the Ceylon Light Infantry of the British Army, subsequently as the Minister of Communication, Public Works and Transport, and finally as the third Prime Minister of independent Sri Lanka, and for us at KDU as the man whose benevolence materialized in the form of a University, which we are committed to uphold as a living monument that keeps his name distinctly alive in the hearts of grateful Sri Lankans. Ladies and gentlemen, we at KDU believe that the blessings of our benefactor have always been a reason for the constant success we achieve in all our activities initiated with patriotic motives. Today, we have been able to elevate this university to be the only defence university in the world with nine academic faculties in operation. In addition to being a defence university, today, we have reached higher planes in the overall university education system in the country, and we proudly shoulder a significant share of the burden of providing high quality tertiary education for deserving youths in Sri Lanka by allowing civilian day scholars to follow our degree programmes, which everybody understands is a great national service and a helping hand to the UGC and the university system in Sri Lanka.

Ladies and gentlemen, this annual event also helps us to review our achievements annually and in a way to report it to the immortal soul of Sir John and invoke his blessings to go further. One may see it as superstitious, but our culture entails that by being grateful we gain merits to forge ahead with least obstacles. So, let me proudly state that KDU has made a fair distance in reaching international levels in

many domains of higher education. – Today, hundreds of military and civil students read for degrees ranging from basic degrees to PhDs at KDU in important disciplines such as Defence and Strategic Studies, Medicine, Engineering, Law, Allied Health Sciences, Social Sciences and Management and Humanities, Computing, and Surveying and Spatial Sciences. We have many foreign students from countries such as Nepal, Zambia, Maldives etc. reading for our degrees and we also have foreign staff teaching in our faculties. Affiliations and collaborations with foreign universities of the highest reputation in the world have shown us larger horizons in the field of global education. Further, we have not forgotten to spread our services to the periphery, and we have established our first outstation campus in the south and hope that we will soon be able to open campuses elsewhere too. All these achievements we make will surely reap benefits for the nation and for national growth and development, and more importantly they will be the most befitting tribute that we can make to those who were instrumental in forming developing and sustaining this unique institution, the largest share of which goes to the great personality that we commemorate with reverence, the late General Rt Hon Sir John Kotelawala.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me once again welcome all the dignitaries and participants who are here for this important occasion, and let me have honour to introduce our chief guest this evening, who is here having very kindly accepted our invitation to grace this occasion. Ladies and gentlemen, he is none other than Hon. Ruwan Wijewardena, the State Minister for Ministry of Defence in the new government of His Excellency the President Maithreepala Sirisena.

First of all, I very cordially welcome Hon Ruwan Wijewardena to KDU and to the 118th birth anniversary celebration of General Sir John Kotelawala, and I pay my gratitude to you Sir for accepting our invitation and for being with us today to commemorate the birth of a great son of Sri Lanka. Your presence is encouraging and inspiring.

Hon Dinendra Ruwan Wijewardene was sworn in as the State Minister of Defence on 12th January 2015 and is one of the youngest politicians to hold this important portfolio in the government of Sri Lanka.

Hon Ruwan Wijewardena hails from a well-connected political dynasty that has produced many freedom fighters and national leaders who have led the country since its independence from colonial powers and have done a yeoman service for the motherland. The first Prime Minister of independent Ceylon, as it was then called, was his great grandfather. His paternal grandfather was a press baron, the pioneer who introduced the printed media to our country by establishing the

Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd better known as the Lake House newspapers group.

I am sure, being born into a political dynasty must have made public service a natural choice for the Honorable Minister. He saw this as an opportunity to continue the legacy of his ancestors and is committed to serve the people of the nation with integrity and dignity.

In 2009 on contesting the Provincial Council Elections he was elected to office as a Member of the Western Provincial Council after securing the highest preferential votes obtained by an opposition candidate in the district. His service to the people and his popularity as a young politician was greatly reflected in the parliamentary election results where he received the second highest preferential votes obtained by a UNP candidate in Gampaha district.

Mr Ruwan Wijewardane's appointment as the State Minister of Defence by His Excellency the President Maithripala Sirisena reaffirms the qualities that were identified in him as an honest politician with high integrity and more importantly as a promising leader with ingrained patriotism.

The first Prime Minister of Ceylon, the Late Honourable DS Senanayake was Mr Wijewardane's maternal great grandfather. The Late Honourable Dudley Senanayake, the second Prime Minister of Ceylon was his grand uncle. Mr Wijewardane is also the nephew of the first Executive President of Sri Lanka, the Late Honourable JR Jayewardene, who established this university in the year 1981.

Incidentally, ladies and gentlemen, Mr Wijewardane began his school life in 1981 at St. Thomas' Preparatory School in Colombo in the same year in which Kotelawala Defence University was established. At school this brilliant student not only exhibited excellence in studies but also proved himself to be an avid sportsman. Cricket and rugby were his forte, which he conquered with ease. He began to reflect inborn leadership qualities as early as his school days both in the playing field and in the school. In 1991 the school management bestowed upon him the honour of being the Head Prefect.

In 1995, Mr Wijewardane left the country to the United Kingdom to continue his higher studies. He entered the Sussex University U.K., and he returned to his motherland where his destiny to greatness awaited with a BA in Politics with specialization in Third World Politics.

Back in Sri Lanka, Mr Wijewardane initiated his career as a journalist for the Midweek Mirror newspaper in early 1998. In 2002 he was appointed as the Consultant and Personal Assistant to the Chairman of the Wijeya Newspapers (Pvt) Ltd. From 2009, he has been the Managing Director of the commercial printing

firm, RS Printek (Pvt) Ltd., and from 2012, Mr Wijewardene has been a Director of the property holding company, Wijeya Mandira (Pvt) Ltd. He is also a director of the Lake House Printers and Publishers PLC.

Ladies and Gentlemen! Let me have the honour to invite the Chief Guest of today's event, Hon Ruwan Wijewardene, the State Minister of Defence to deliver the commemorative address. Over to you sir.

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අතිගරු ජනාධිපතිතුමණි, ආරක්ෂක අමාත්‍යාංශයේ ලේකම්තුමා ප්‍රධාන අමාත්‍යාංශ ලේකම්වරුණි, කුලපතිතුමණි, ආරක්ෂක මාණ්ඩලික ප්‍රධානී තුමණි, යුධ හමුදාපති තුමණි, නාවික හමුදාපති තුමණි, ගුවන් හමුදාපති තුමණි, අතිරේක ලේකම්වරුණි, ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ ත්‍රිවිධ හමුදා නිලධාරීවරුණි, දක්ෂිණ මණ්ඩපාධිපති උපකුලපතිනියෝජ්‍යා , ,(ආරක්ෂක හා පාලන)නියෝජ්‍ය උපකුලපති (යනඅධ්‍ය) හා පශ්චාත් අධ්‍යයන පීඨයේ පීඨාධිපති ඇතුළු පීඨාධිපතිවරුණි, සිවිල් හා සේවා අධ්‍යයන හා අනධ්‍යයන කාර්ය මණ්ඩල සාමාජික සාමාජිකාවනි, සේවා ශිෂ්‍ය හට නිලධාරීනියෙසු ,නේවාසික සිසුනිඅ , ,සම්භාවනීය ආරාධිත අමුත්තනි

ඔබ සියලු දෙනාට සුඛ උදෑසනක්.....

ශ්‍රීමත් ජෝන් කොතලාවල ,යන පීඨපශ්චාත් උපාධි අධ්‍ය ,ලයීයආරක්ෂක විශ්වවිද්‍යා , ල ,සම්භාවනීය ආරාධිත අමුත්තා ,නිල උත්සවයෙහි ,ගොඩනැගිල්ල විවෘත කිරීමේෙස සපැමිණිපාල මෙෙත්‍රී ,අතිගරු ජනාධිපති ,සමාජවාදී ජනරජයේ ,කතාන්ත්‍රිජාප්‍ර , ලංකාශ්‍රී , ඉතා ගෞරවයෙන් ,ආරාධිත අමුත්තන් ,ඇතුළු සියලු ම සම්භාවනීය ,සිරිසේන මැතිතුමා .ඔබ සැමගෙන් අවසරයි ,පිළිගන්නා අතර

රටක තිරසාරක ,පනය සඳහාඅධ්‍යා ,සංවර්ධන අරමුණු ළඟා කර ගැනීමේදී ,ෙරෙන ආයෝජනය .ඉතා වැදගත් ,

රටක්සැලකිය , ආදායමෙන්රාජ්‍ය ,වාර්ෂිකව ,ස්වකීය ආර්ථික කළමනාකරණයේදී , .පනය සඳහා කැප කරයිඅධ්‍යා ,තිශතයක්යුතු ප්‍ර

අප කාගේත් වගකීම වන්නේ ,තිපත්ති ප්‍රඅවශ්‍ය ,දුරදර්ශීව මේ අරමුණ ඉටු කර ගන්න , ඒවා යථාර්තය ,හා සැලසුම් නිර්මාණය කිරීමෙන්ක් බවට පත් කිරීමයි.

අතිගරු ජනාධිපතිතුමණිනිපුණතාවයන්ගෙන් ,ජාතික ආරක්ෂාවෙන් ඔබ්බට ගොස් , ,පිළිබද උසස් දැනුමක් සහිත ,කළමණාකරණය ,හා ,වආරක්ෂක විද්‍යා ,පමණක් නොව සහයෝගීතාවය ,විධ හමුදා අතරත්‍රී ,තාවයන්බිහි කිරීමේ අවශ්‍ය ,විධ හමුදා නිලධාරීන්ත්‍රී අ ,වර්ධනය කිරීමේවශ්‍යතාවයන්**1981** නිසා , අංක ,දරන පාර්ලිමේන්තු පනතින් 68 . පීඨය ස්ථාපිත කළාමත් ජෝන් කොතලාවල ආරක්ෂක විද්‍යාශ්‍රී

එම ජාතික අවශ්‍යතාවයමත් ජෝන් ලයනල් කොතලාවල ශ්‍රී ,සපුරාලීම සඳහා , අක්කර ,රත්මලාන කඳවල වත්තේ පිහිටි ,මැතිතුමා48ක සුන්දර භූමි භාගය යුධ හමුදාව වෙත පරිත්‍යාග කරනු ලැබුවා.

1988 වර්ෂයේදීධානය කිරීමේ පීඨය සඳහා උපාධි ප්‍රකාශලාවල ආරක්ෂක විද්‍යා ,
.වරම හිමිවුණා

ඉටු කල කාර්ය භාරය අගය කරමින්2007 වර්ෂ , දීමත් ජෝන් කොතලාවල ශ්‍රී ,
.එය නැවත නම් කරනු ලැබුවා ,ලය ලෙසආරක්ෂක විශ්වවිද්‍යා

වර්ෂ 2009 දීඉදිරි ,වෙනස් කරමින් දිශානතීන් ,ලයේඅපේ විශ්වවිද්‍යා ,කාලානුරූපීව ,
.ගමනක් ඇරඹුවා

වර්ෂ 2011 දී ,අනේවාසික සිසුන් සඳහාද ,හමුදාවට පමණක් සීමා වී තිබූ අවකාශය ,
.විවෘත කරන්නට අපට හැකි වුණා

පීඨ න්තර රැකියා වෙළඳපලඉතා කෙටි කාලයක් තුළ ජාත්‍ය ,ක් ස්ථාපිත කරමින් 09
ප්‍රමිතීන්ට අනුකූලව සකස් කලඋපාධි පාඨමාලා ,රිපුර්ණවිෂය මාලාවන්ගෙන් ප ,
.හණයක්අපට හැකි වීම විශාල ජයග්‍ර ,ආරම්භ කරන්න

උසස් අධ්‍යාපනය සඳහාමාතෘ භූමිය තුලම රඳවා ,විදේශයන්ට ඇදී යන දරුවන් ,
රටට ඉතිරි කර දීමට අපට ,මාණයක්විශාල විදේශ විනිමය ප්‍ර ,වාර්ෂිකව ,ගැනීමෙන්
හැකි වුණා .

අනෙක් අතින්රදිග හා දියුණු යුරෝපීය රටවල විදේශීය මැද පෙ ,සාර්ක් කලාපීය ,
,මාණයක්විශාල විදේශ විනිමය ප්‍ර ,හැකි වීම තුළින්ද ,මෙරටට ගෙන්වා ගැනීමට ,සිසුන්
.අපට හැකි වී තිබෙනවා ,රටට උපයා දීමට

මේ වසරේදී දනාවික හා වි ,ඕමාන් රාජකීය නාවික හමුදාව සඳහා ,දුලි ඉංජිනේරුඋසස් ,
.රිමට හැකිවීම අපේ ශක්තිය විදහා දැක්වීමක්ආරම්භ කී ,ධීප්ලෝමා පාඨමාලාවක්

රටට වැය බරක් නොවීඅප විසින් ඉටු ,පනය ඉහළ නංවන්නට දායක වීමඋසස් අධ්‍යා ,
.කරනු ලබන ජාතික මෙහෙවරක්

විශේෂඥ දැනුම බුද්ධි ගලනයටද පිළියම් සෙවීමට ,ලංකාව තුළම රඳවා ගනිමින් ,අපට
හැකිවුණා .

නියමිත කාල රාමුව තුළ ,දරුවන්ට සහතිකවීම තුළින් ,කිරීමේ වගවීම උපාධි අවසන් ,
.අවකාශ සලසා දී තිබෙනවා ,අනාගතය හොඳින් සැලසුම් කරගැනීම සඳහා ,ඔවුන්ගේ

අතිගරු ජනාධිපතිතුමණිදැනුමට පමණක් සීමා නොවී ,, විෂය පරිබාහිර ක්‍රියාකාරකම්
සඳහාත්උපාධි අපේක්ෂකයින් , යොමු කරනවා .

නවීන භාෂාර්ජාල පහසුකම් සහිත පුස්තකාල පහසුකම් අන්ත ,ගාරපරිගණක විද්‍යා , ර්ජීන්ට ලබා දී අවස්ථාවන් විද්‍යා ,නව දැනුම අත්පත් කර ගැනීමේ ,ලබාදීම තුළින් .තිබෙනවා

අතිගරු ජනාධිපතිතුමාණි පීඨයක් ආරක්ෂක සෑම අතින්ම පරිපූර්ණ වෛද්‍ය , .ලය සතුයිවිශ්වවිද්‍යා

වෛද්‍ය සිසුන්ගේහා ,ධිමත් කිරීමේ අරමුණින්වඩාත් වී ,යෝගික ශික්ෂණ කටයුතු ප්‍ර , න්තර ජාත්‍ය ,පොදු ජනතාවටත් ,රණවිරුවන් හා ඔවුන්ගේ පවුල්වල සාමාජිකයන්ටත් ලැයිස විශ්වවිද්‍යා ,දේශයේවෙරහැර ප්‍ර ,ලබා දීමේ අරමුණින් , පහසුකම්මිනියේ වෛද්‍ය ප්‍ර ආරම්භ කිරීමේ හා ,ශික්ෂණ රෝහලක්රදුර කටයුත්ත .අපි ආරම්භ කළා ,

දුරදර්ශීව හා රාජ්‍යාන්ත්‍රිකව මේ කටයුත්තේසියලු ,ජාතික වටිනාකම අගයමින් , , සංකීර්ණයමම පරිසර හිතකාමී වෛද්‍ය , සේවා පහසුකම් සහිතවිශේෂඥ වෛද්‍ය ,ඔබතුමාගෙන් ලද සහයෝගය , ඇමතිවරයා ලෙසඵවකට සෞඛ්‍ය ,ගොඩනැංවීම සදහා මගපෙන්වීම හා ආශීර්වාදය විශේෂයන්ම අගය කල යුතුයි.

ලෝක සෞඛ්‍ය සංවිධානය ,ත මරණපිළිකා ආශ්‍රී ,සපයා ඇති තොරතුරුවලට අනුව , **2034** වසර .ඉහල යෑමේ අවධානමක තියෙනවා ,ලොව පුරා වේගයෙන්වන විට , .ක් දක්වා ඉහල යන බව ඔවුන්ගේ මතයයි 24 මිලියන ,වන මරණ සංඛ්‍යාපිළිකා ආශ්‍රී පිළිකා රෝග නිවාරණය සදහා ,ඖෂධීය ප්‍රතිකර්ම භාධාන ප්‍ර ,තිකර්මවිකිරණශීලී ප්‍ර , **Linear Accelerator** ,වර්තමානයේදී .තැනක් ගන්නවාතාක්ෂණය සහිතවිකිරණශීලී , ලෙස හඳුනා ගෙන ,මයක්තිකර්ම ක්‍රවඩාත් දියුණු හා සාරථක ප්‍ර ,මයතිකාර ක්‍රම දිවයිනේ වෙනත් කිස ,මහරගම පිළිකා රෝහලේ හැර ,නමුත් .තිබෙනවාදී රජයේ රෝහලක.යාත්මක වෙන්තේ නැහැම දැනට ක්‍රීමේ පහසුක ,තිකාර ඒකකවලපිළිකා ප්‍ර ,

අතිගරු ජනාධිපතිතුමාණිතිකාර ඒකකය පිළිකා ප්‍ර ,ශික්ෂණ රෝහලේ ,ලැයිසවිශ්වවිද්‍යා , **Linear Accelerator** ,සැලසුම් කිරීමේදීතාක්ෂණය සහිත උපකරණඇතුලත් කර , ,පිළිකා මර්ධනය සදහා ,නමුත් .නැහැ ඵම තාක්ෂණය අත්‍යාවශ්‍ය බවවිශේෂඥ , තාක්ෂණ ශිල්පීන් ,වරුන්වෛද්‍ය ,ශික්ෂණ රෝහලක් ලෙස ,ඒ තුළින් . මතයයිවෛද්‍ය .අතිරේක පහසුකම් ද සැලසෙන බව ඔවුන්ගේ මතයයි ,හා හෙදියන් පුහුණු කිරීමේ

ඵනිසා **Linear Accelerator** ,තාක්ෂණය සහිතපිළිකා ,උපකරණ වලින් පරිපූර්ණ , තිකාරප්‍රඵකකයක්ඇති කිරීම සදහා ,යේලැයිස ශික්ෂණ රෝහල් පරිශ්‍රවිශ්වවිද්‍යා , .ආශීර්වාදයත් අපේක්ෂා කරනවා ,කාරුණික අවධානයත් ,ඔබතුමාගේ

වර්ෂ **2013** දී ලංකාවේ හෙද හා ශ්‍රී ,යන පීඨය ස්ථාපිත කරමින් අධ්‍යසම සෞඛ්‍ය , දායකවීමට අප ,ගුණාත්මකතාව ඉහල නැංවීමට , සේවාවන්හිපරිපූරක වෛද්‍යට හැකි වුණා .

නගරයට පමණක් සීමාවී තිබුරටේ සමාජ ,ගමට ගෙනයාම තුළින් ,දැනුම විශ්වීය ,
,දායක වෙමින් ,සැමට සම ලෙසින් බෙදා දීමේ සමාජ සත්කාරයට ,සංවර්ධනයේ එලය
146 ධානය කල අක්කරදේශයේ රජය ප්‍රසියළු නාගරික පහසුකම් සහිතව සුරිය වැව ප්‍ර
දක්ෂිණ මණ්ඩපය ,භූමිභාගයක ,කස්ථාපිත කරන්නට අපට හැකි වුණා.
පසුගිය මැයි මාසේ 05 ,වනදා ඔබතුමාගේ සුරතීන්අප ,එය විවෘත කරන්නට ලැබීම ,
.යක්ලද භාගය

උසස් පෙළ සමත් දරුවන්ගේ අනාගතය සුරක්ෂිත කිරීම සඳහාමන්ගේ කැමැත්ත ,
දිගු කාලීන සහනදායී ,ධීර්වලෝමාවක් හෝ උපාධියක් දක්වා ඉගෙනීමට ,අනුව උසස්
අධ්‍යාපන ණය මුදලක් ලබා දීමටඉනගේ යෝජනා කර තිබූ කානිපත්ති ප්‍රඔබතුමාගේ ප්‍ර ,
.විශේෂයෙන් සිහිපත් කරනු කැමැත්තෙමි ,බව

වෙනස්වන දේශීය හා විදේශීය රැකියා වෙළඳපොළෙහිතාවයන්ට තම අවශ්‍ය ,
පුහුණුවත් ලබාදීම සඳහා ,වෘත්තීය දැනුමත් ,න්තර මට්ටමේජාත්‍ය ,ගැලපෙන පරිදි
තෘතීයික අධ්‍යාපන පහසුකම් පුළුල් කිරීමේ අවශ්‍යතාවය ඔබතුමාගේ දුරදර්ශී දැක්මයි .
අපි එය යථාර්තයක් බවට පත් කිරීමටඉතා ,දැනටමත් කටයුතු ආරම්භ කර ඇති බව ,
.නිහතමානී ආඩම්බරයෙන් සඳහන් කරන්න කැමතියි

අතිගරු ජනාධිපතිතුමණ්මුලික ,තා පුළුල් කිරීමේපන අවශ්‍යපශ්චාත් උපාධි අධ්‍යා ,
අභිලාෂය වන්නේතීන්දු තීරණ ,ටමේකළමණාකරන මට් ,හා ,නිපත්ති සැලසුම්කරනප්‍ර ,
.දියුණු කිරීමයි ,හා කුසලතාවයන් ,උපායමාර්ගික හැකියාවන් ,වෘත්තීකයන්ගේ ,ගන්නා

වෘත්තීමය හමුදා ඇති රටවල්පුළුල් ,පන අවස්ථාපශ්චාත් අධ්‍යා ,ආදර්ශ කොට ගනිමින් ,
විධත්‍රි ,අපේ රටේද ,කිරීම තුළින්හමුදාවෘත්තීමය ,නැණ නුවණින් සවිබල ගන්වා ,
අපගේ ,බවට පත් කිරීමට හැකි බව ,ශක්තිමත් සංවිධානයක් ,පිරිපුන් ,න්හැකියාවන්ගේ
.විශ්වාසයයි

ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ හා කණ්ෂ්ඨ නිලධාරීන්ටඋපාධිය දක්වා ,දර්ශනපති ,මුලික උපාධියේ සිට ,
වලවිවිධ ක්ෂේත්‍රඋපාධි පිරිනැමීම තුළින්හමුදාවට අවශ් ,යආරක්ෂක ,
ඉතා ,හැකි වී ඇති බව ,බාදීමටනීක්ෂණ ගැඹුරු දැනුමක් ල ,කළමණාකරණය පිළිබඳ
.සඳහන් කරන්න කැමතියි ,නිහතමානී ආඩම්බරයෙන්

එහි ප්‍රථිඵලයක් ලෙස ඉදිරි දශකය ඇතුලත ,ෂ්ඨ හමුදා නිලධාරීන්බහුතර ජ්‍යෙ ,
ර්ථීන්යන ලැබූ විද්‍යාදර්ශනපති උපාධිය දක්වා පියවරෙන් පියවර අධ්‍ය බවට පත් වන
බව අපගේ විශ්වාසයයි .

අපේ රටේ ජාතික ආරක්ෂාව ස්ථාපිත කිරීමේදීහමුදාවක් මේ ආකාරයෙන් දැනුමෙන්ද ,
.සන්නද්ධ කිරීම විශේෂයෙන්ම වැදගත් වන බව අවධාරණ කරන්න කැමතියි

මිනිස් අවශ්‍යතා, කාර්යක්ෂමව හා, ඵලදායීව ඉටු කිරීමට, විද්‍යාත්මක වින්තනයේ , වේශයක් ලෙස ප්‍ර කෙරෙන, පර්යේෂණ පශ්චාත් උපාධි අධ්‍යයනයේදී ඉතා වැදගත් වෙනවා .එය රටේ අනාගත සංවර්ධනයට කෙරෙන ඵලදායී ආයෝජනයක් .

පර්යේෂණ ප්‍රයෝගික පදනමක් මත පිහිටාවෙලදපොළ පදනම් කර ,ඉටු කරමින් , , ලංකාවේ ආර්ථිකය සවිබල ගැන්වීමේ අරමුණින් ශ්‍රී ,නවෝත්පාදන බිහිකරමින් ,ගෙන පර්යේෂණ හා උසස් අධ්‍යාපන සංයෝජන ආයතනය ස්ථාපනය (KDU CARE) .අපි කටයුතු කළා ,ටකිරීම

එතුළින්ඉතා ,යට අවතීර්ණ වී ඇති බවමේ ක්ෂේත්‍ර ,යෝගික දෘෂ්ටියෙන්අපි වඩාත් ප්‍ර , .ආඩම්බරයෙන් සඳහන් කරමි

තුන්කල් දකින උසස් අධ්‍යාපන ආයතනයක් ලෙස“ ,Inculcating Professionalism for National Development ”නේමාව ඔස්සේ ,දෙස් විදෙස් විද්වතුන්ගේ සහභාගීත්වයෙන් අගෝස්තු මස දිනයන්හි 28 හා 27කොතලාවල ආරක්ෂක විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයීය, වාර්ෂික අන්තර්ජාතික පර්යේෂණ සමුළුව ,(IRC)අටවන වරටත් , ,අපි අපේ ජාතික වගකීම ඉටු කරලීමට සුදානමින් සිටින බව ,යේ පවත්වමින්මෙම පරිශ්‍ර ඔබතුමාට ඉතා ගෞරවයෙන් සැල කර සිටිනවා .

උගත මනා" ශිල්පයමයි මතු රැකෙනාය "න්ත සාම්ප්‍රදායික කියමනක්නා කාලීන අවශ්‍ය . මතු රැකෙනා" ,විමසුම්ව දැකීමේදී ශිල්පයමයි උගත මනාය "නුවෙන් අපි අපේ , අධ්‍යාපන ප්‍රතිපත්ති සම්පාදනය, හා සැලසුම්කරණයේ **Policy Planninga nd Implementation)** දිශානතීන් තීරණය කල යුතුයි යන්න අපේ දැක්මයි.

අනාගතය අවශ්‍යතා නිවැරදිව පුරෝකථනය කරමින්මත් ජෝන් ජෙනරාල් ශ්‍රී , **2001** වර්ෂ ,ලයකොතලාවල ආරක්ෂක විශ්වවිද්‍යා දී ,පශ්චාත් උපාධි අංශය පිහිටුවමින් , පති උපාධි පාඨමාලයන කළමණාකරනය පිළිබඳ විද්‍යාආරක්ෂක අධ්‍යා ආරම්භ කර , .යට අවතීර්ණ වුණායන ක්ෂේත්‍රපශ්චාත් උපාධි අධ්‍ය

2003දිවේදී උපාධි පාඨමාලාව විද්‍යා ,යන කළමණාකරනය පිළිබඳආරක්ෂක අධ්‍ය , .ආරම්භ කළා

පශ්චාත් උපාධි අංශය **2007** වර්ෂ ,දී කාර්ය මණ්ඩල සංවර්ධන හා වෘත්තීය අභිවර්ධන අංශය නමින්ද**2009** වර්ෂ , දී පශ්චාත් උපාධි අධ්‍යයන ආයතනය නමින්දනම් කිරීම , .කාර්යභාරය ඉහල නැංවීමට කටයුතු කළා වගකීම හා ,තුළින් එහි කළමනාකරණය

වර්ෂ **2012**දිඋපාය මාර්ගික ,යන පියය ආරම්භ කිරීම තුළින්පශ්චාත් උපාධි අධ්‍ය , නව දිශානතීන් ඔස්සේ අපේ මෙහෙවර පුළුල් කිරීමට කටයුතු ,වැදගත්කමකින් යුත් .කළා

එය ජාතික වගකීමක් ලෙස ඉතා කෙටි කාලයක් තුළ විවිධ ,කල්පනා කිරීම නිසා , වල පශ්චාත් උපාධි පාඨමාලා රැසක් සාර්ථකව ආරම්භ කිරීමට පශ්චාත් උපාධි ත්‍රස්තේ .යන පීඨයට හැකි වුණාදායා

වසර 2016දී හඳුනාගත් ක්ෂේත්‍ර ඔස්සේ සිය අධ්‍යයන වපසරිය පුළුල් කිරීමට පශ්චාත් උපාධි අධ්‍යයන පීඨය සැලසුම් කර තිබෙනවා .

2012 වර්ෂයයනයක් පශ්චාත් අධ්‍යා ,රමිතියේ ඉහල ප් ,වලවනවිට විවිධ ක්ෂේත්‍ර , ලබාදීමේ ජාතික අවශ්‍යතාවය හා පශ්චාත් උපාධි අධ්‍යයන පීඨයේ යන වපසරිය අධ්‍ය , පුළුල්වීම නිසා යන පරිපාලන හා අධ්‍යා ,නව අංගෝපාංග හා පහසුකම්වලින් සමන්විත , .තාවය ඉස්මතු වුණාදාවශ්‍ය ,ගොඩනැගිල්ලක

ජාතික ආර්ථිකයට වැය බරක් නොවී ,ප් සංවර්ධනය සඳහා සමා ,රටේ ආර්ථික , උපයා ගන්නා මුදලින් ආපසු ,අභියෝගාත්මක වගකීමක් අප වෙත පවරා ගනිමින් ගෙවීමේ පදනම මත රුපියල් මිලියන ක ණය මුදලක් ලංකා බැංකුව වෙතින් ලබා 750 ක භූමිභාගයක් තුළ 76.3 පර්වස් ,ගනිමින් වර්ග මීටර ක මෙම ගොඩනැගිල්ල 5,500 .තුළ ඉදිකරන්නට අපට හැකි වුණා වසරක් හා මාස පහක් වැනි කෙටි කාලයක්

මෙම ගොඩනැගිල්ල මහල් හතකික 300 සියලු අංගෝපාංගවලින් සමන්විත ආසන . වණාශාලයක්කින් 50 පරිගණක ,ක විභාග ශාලාවක් 200 ආසන ,ක්16 දේශන ශාලා , පරිපාලන අංශයක් හා ,ගාරයක් සමන්විත නවීන තාක්ෂණයෙන් යුත් පරිගණක විද්‍යා යන හා පරිපාලන පරිසරයක් මෙම එ අධ්‍යා උඩුමහල් ආපනශාලාවක් ඇතු .ගොඩනැගිල්ල සතුයි

පොතපත තුළින් ලබන යාත්මක දැනුමට පමණක් සීමා නොව ,නොවිශාරිතික , ,විනයානුකූල පරිසරයක් ගොඩනැගීම සඳහා ,පනය සඳහාද විධිමත් අධ්‍යා ධාකෘතීම් ගොඩනැගිලි තරණ ක්‍රී ,ක් උස54 අඩි ,අභියෝගාත්මක ඉලක්ක හඹා යා හැකි නිහඬමානී ,ය තුළ ස්ථානගත කර ඇති බව මෙම පරිශ්‍ර ,අංගනයක් (Climbing Wall) .ආඩම්බරයෙන් සඳහන් කරමි

විශේෂයෙන්ම විදේශීය ,උපදේශකයින් ,දේශීය හා විදේශීය සම්පත් දායකයින් , විශේෂඥයන් හා අමුත්තන් සඳහා අති සුඛෝපභෝගී නවාතැන් ,අමුත්තන් නිදහස් නිවහල් ,ස් පරිසරයක නිදහ .පහසුකම්වලින්ද මෙම ගොඩනැගිල්ල සමන්විතයි නයකින්ද ඉහල මාසිතුවිලි ජනිත කරවන සොදුරු පරිසරයකින් යුත් උද්‍යාලයේ සමන්විතයි .

උසස් අධ්‍යාපන ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ අපේ කාර්ය භාරය විනිවිධ ,ජාතික වගකීම ඉටු කිරීමේදී , .අපේ මෙහෙවර හැඳින්විය හැකියි ,දැකිය හැකි කැඩපතක් ලෙස

අතිගරු ජනාධිපතිතුමණියන සියලු අංගෝපාංගවලින් සමන්විත මෙම පශ්චාත් අධ්‍යාය , නිර්මාණය කිරීමේදී ජාතික ,පීඨ ගොඩනැගිල්ලවගකීමක් ඉටු කිරීමේ අරමුණින් , ඥාතීන් වඩා ,ත්මක සැලසුම් සකස් කර දුන්ස්වේච්ඡාවෙන්ම ඉදිරිපත්වී වාස්තු විද්‍යා ආචාර්ය සේනක ධර්මතිලක මහතාගේ සේවයන් විශේෂයෙන්ම ඇගයීමට ලක් කරනවාක

එමෙන්මයම ඉංජිනේරුමය මධ්‍ය ,මෙම ගොඩනැගිල්ලේ ඉදිකිරීම් කටයුතු ඉටුකළ , උපදේශක කාර්යාංශයයේ .කාර්යභාරය ඉහල ඇගයීමකට ලක් කරනවා ,

මූලික සැලසුම් වලට පමණක් සීමා නොවීශීලී ලෙස ගොඩනැගීමේ කටයුතු වලදී නමාය , පානි වායා ,හා යු ඵස් කරුණාරත්න මහතාගේ ,ධිකාරීඅතිරේක සාමාන්‍යා ,කටයුතු කල අතිශයෙන්ම ,නුවන් ජයසුන්දර මහතාගේ සේවය ,කළමනාකරු ඉංජිනේරු ව .ශංසනීයයිප්‍රායාපානියේ ඉංජිනේරු උපදේශක ගාමිණී සිල්වා මහතා ඇතුළු , ඉංජිනේරුමය කාර්ය මණ්ඩලයේ හා ඉදිකිරීම් කටයුතු ඉටුකළ කාර්ය මණ්ඩලයේ .දායකත්වයද විශේෂයෙන්ම ඇගයිය යුතුයි

ණය මුදල් සම්පාදනයේදීඉඩම මොරටුව ,ලංකා බැංකුවේ ,සහයෝගය ලබා දුන් , ප ,ඇතුළු නිලධාරීන්ටත් ,ශාඛාවේ කළමණාකරු ශ්‍රීශංසාව හිමිවිය යුතුය.

බස්නාහිර පළාත්බද මාර්ග සංවර්ධන අධිකාරියේඇතුළු ,විධායක ඉංජිනේරු , රත්මලාන ගුවන් හමුදා කෞතුකාගාරයේ අණදෙන නිලධාරී ,නිලධාරීන්ටත් හා බලසණ නායක තිළිණ ඩයස්ජල සම්පාදන හා ,ඇතුළු කාර්ය මණ්ඩලයටත් , කොතලාවල ආරක ,කාර්ය මණ්ඩලයටත් ,ජලාපවහන මණ්ඩලයේ ිෂක විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ .ගෞරව පුර්වක ස්තූතිය පිරිනමන්න කැමතියි ,

අවසාන වශයෙන්ආරක්ෂක ,මේ උත්සවය සඳහා සපැමිණි අතිගරු ජනාධිපතිතුමාටත් , අතිරේක ,ශ ලේකම්වරුන්ටත්තාංශයේ ලේකම්තුමා ඇතුළු සියලුම අමාඅමාත්‍යාං ධානී ඇතුළආරක්ෂක මාණ්ඩලික ප්‍ර ,කුලපතිතුමාටත් ,ලේකම්වරුන්ටත් ු ත්‍රිවිධ හමුදාපතිවරුන්ටත්සෙසු සම්භාවනීය ,විධ හමුදා නිලධාරීවරුන්ටත්ස්ව ක්‍රියේස් , ඔබසැමටත් මගේ ස්තූතිය , ආයතන වලටත්සියලුම මාධ්‍ය ,ආරාධිත අමුත්තන්ටත් .පිරිනමනවා

ඔබ සැමට ස්තූතියි .

පකුලපතිතුමාගේ සමුගැනීමේ දේශනය 02018. 2016 -

දක්ෂිණ මණ්ඩපාධිපති මේජර් ජෙනරාල් ලාල් ගුණසේකර ,නියෝජ්‍ය උප කුලපති)ආරක්ෂක හා පාලන (මේජර් ජෙනරාල් රුවන් කුලතුංග ,නියෝජ්‍ය උප කුලපති)අධ්‍යයන (මහාචාර්ය ජයන්ත ආරියරත්න ,සියලුම පීඨාධිපතිවරුන් ,විධායක අධිකාරී , අණදෙන නිලධාරී)මුලස්ථාන බලඇණිය ,(අධ්‍යක්ෂවරුන් ,ලේඛකාධිකාරී ,ත්‍රිවිධ හමුදා ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ නිලධාරීන් ඇතුළු සියලුම නිලධාරී /නිලධාරීනියන්, අධ්‍යයන කාර්ය මණ්ඩලය, පරිපාලන කාර්ය මණ්ඩලය ,සෙසු නිලයින් ,සිවිල් කාර්ය මණ්ඩලය , කෙට්ටි නිලධාරී /නිලධාරීනියන්, උපාධි අපේක්ෂක අන්‍යෝන්‍ය ශිෂ්‍ය ශිෂ්‍යාවන් ඇතුළු ඔබ සියලු දෙනාට ම සුභ උදාසනක් !

වසර35 ක මගේ හමුදා ජීවිතයේ අද ඉතා වැදගත් දවසක් .ඒවගේම හැගීමේදී දවසක් . යුද හමුදා නිලධාරියෙක් ලෙස මගේ රාජකාරී ජීවිතයේ වැඩිම කාල පරිච්ඡේදයක් විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයක උපකුලපතිවරයෙක් ලෙස සේවය කරන්න ලැබීම සුවිශේෂ භාග්‍යයක් . විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයක් කියල කියන්නේ ක්ෂීතිජයෙන් එහා ලෝකය දකින දරුවන්ට මග හසර කියා දෙමින් විශ්වීය දැනුම බෙදාහදා ගන්නා ආයතනයක් .

එනිසා ,හමුදා නිලධාරියෙක් ලෙස මගේ මේ භූමිකාව සුවිශේෂී එකක් ,යන් සමගශිෂ්‍ය . ,යන කාර්ය මණ්ඩල නිලධාරීන් සමගන හා අනධ්‍යයඅධ්‍ය ,සිවිල් සේවකයන් සමග විධි හමුදා නිලධාරී හා සෙසු නිලයන් සමගත්‍රිකටයුතු කිරීමට ලැබීම සුවිශේෂී අත්දැකීමක් වුණා .

2008වසරේ දෙසැම්බර් මාසයේ 29 වනදා කොතලාවල ආරක්ෂක විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ උපකුලපති ලෙස වැඩ අරඹමින් අලුත් ගමනකට මුලපිරුවාසර තුළ ගෙවීගිය සත් ව . ගමනය සඳහා සැලකිය යුතු කාර්යභාරයක් වල ප්‍රනව දිශානතීන් ඔස්සේ විවිධ ක්ෂේත්‍ර ඉටු කිරීමට ලැබීම භාග්‍යයක්මත් ජෝන් යන්න ශ්‍රී ”සිය රටටමයි කවදත්“ . .කොතලාවල මැතිතුමන්ගේ ආදර්ශ පාඨය වුණාහැමවිටම එම අරමුණෙහි පිහිටා කටයුතු කල අපේ දැක්ම වුයේ රට වෙනුවෙන් මෙහෙවරක් ඉටු කිරීමයි.

එනිසා ,කලානුරූපීව හැඩගස්වමින් ,ජාතික වගකීම නිවැරදිව තක්සේරු කර ගනිමින් , පසුගිය සත් වසර තුළ ,ජෙනරාල් ශ්‍රීමත් ජෝන් කොතලාවල ආරක්ෂක විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය , සියලු අංගෝපාංගවලින් සමන්විත අද්විතීය ආරක්ෂක විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයක් ලෙස පත් කිරීමට අපට හැකි වුණා.

ආරක්ෂක උපාය හා උපක්‍රමික දැනුම ,යුද්ධයට පමණක් සීමා නොකොට ,රටේ තිරසාර සංවර්ධනය ගොඩනගන උගතුන් බිහි කිරීම සඳහා යොමු කිරීම තුළින් ,අපි -අපේ ජාතික වගකීම ඉටු කල බව මගේ විශ්වාසයයි .

ත්‍රිවිධ හමුදාවන් වෙත නායකත්වය දිය හැකි ,අභිත හා ගුණ නුවණින් පිරි තරුණ නායකයින් පුරුදු පුහුණු කිරීම පමණක් ,ප්‍රමුඛ කාර්ය බවට පත් නොකර ඒ අවකාශ සිවිල් ප්‍රජාව වෙත ලබාදීම ආරක්ෂක විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ ගමන් මගෙහි සුවිශේෂ හැරවුම් ලක්ෂය ලෙස හඳුන්වන්න පුළුවන් .

විශ්වවිද්‍යාල වරප්‍රසාද සිවිල් ප්‍රජාව වෙත ලබාදීම .

සැබවින්ම වර්ෂ 2011දී ,හමුදාවට පමණක් සීමා වී තිබූ අවකාශය, අනේවාසික සිසුන් සඳහාද, විවෘත කිරීම අභියෝගාත්මක ප්‍රවේශයක් වුණානමුත් මම කල්පනා කලේ . විධි හමුදාව අතර සුසංයෝගයක් ඇති ත්‍රි ,කෙටිමට නිලධාරීන් පුහුණු කිරීම තුළින් හමුදාව හා ,අනේවාසික සිසුන් පාඨමාලා සඳහා එක් කිරීමෙන් ,කිරීමට හැකි වූ අයුරින් සෘජු තීරණයක් ගෙන ,එනිසා .ජාව අතර සුසංයෝගයක් ඇති කල හැකි බවයිසිවිල් ප්‍ර යඵය ක්‍රිාවට නංවන්න මම පසුබට වුනේ නැහැ .

උසස් පෙළ සමත් දරුවන්ගෙන් %16ක් විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයකට ඇතුලත්වීමේ සුදුසුකම් ලබනවාරසාද හිමිවන්නේ පනය ලැබීමේ වරප්ලයක අධ්‍යාපනික විශ්වවිද්‍යා ,නමුත් . %8 දැයේ දරුවන්ගෙන්කටත් වඩා අඩු අතලොසක් දෙනාටයිඅපේ රටේ තරඟකාරී . පන රටාව තුළ දරුවන් විශාල පිරිසක් දැඩි පීඩාදායනයකින් මේ අභියෝගයට මුහුණදෙනවා .

උසස් අධ්‍යාපන වරප්‍රසාද දරුවන්ට ලබා දීම ජාතික වගකීමක්නමුත් සංවර්ධනය . සම්පත් ඌණතාවය ඊට විශාල බාධාවක් රටේ ,වෙමින් පවතින රටක් ලෙස

ඇතැම් දරුවන් ඉහල ලයක් වෙත විශ්වවිද්‍යා ,අගයන් ලබා තිබුනත් Z SCORE .හණය කිරීමට ඇති කඩඉම් සීමාව නිසා ඔවුන් අසරණ වෙනවාඅන්තර්ග්‍ර

ජාතික වගකීමත්ශ්ණය විනිවිද දකින්න අපිට පුළුවන් සංවේදී මනසත් නිසා මේ ප්‍ර , උගත් දරුවන්ට දැ ,සාද අභිමි වුණුල වරප්‍රවිශ්වවිද්‍යා .වුණාරිය හැකි පාඨමාලා ගාස්තු යටතේ රාජ්‍ය විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයක උසස් අධ්‍යාපන වරප්‍රසාද ලබන්න අවකාශ සලසා දෙන්න අපිට පුළුවන් වුණා .

මේ තුළින් කොතලාවල ආරක්ෂක විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයට අන්තර්ග්‍රහණය කල දරුවන්ගෙන් සමහරක් විදේශීය විශ්වවිද්‍යාල කරා ඇදීයාමට තරම් ආර්ථික පසුබිමකින් යුක්ත අය . දෙමාපියන්ට .හණයක්ඔවුන් අපේ රටේ ම රඳවා ගන්න හැකි වීම අංශ ගණනාවක ජයග්‍ර පන අවකාශ ලබාගැනීමට දරුවන්ට හැකි වීම උසස් අධ්‍යා ,වැඩි ආර්ථික බරක් නොවී පනය සඳහා විදේශයන්ට ගලා යන විදේශ විනිමය අධ්‍යා ,හණයක්දරුවන් ලද ජයග්‍ර විශ .හණයක්ගැනීම අප රට ලැබූ ජයග්‍ර ඉතිරි කර ්‍රණයෙන්ම පවුල මුලික වූ සංස්කෘතියක හර පද්ධතිය ආරක්ෂා කර ගන්නාවයකින් යුත් දරු සංස්කෘතික අනන්‍ය ,

,කතාබහ ,ඇදුම .හණයක්පරපුරක් බිහි කිරීමට හැකිවීම සමාජය ලැබූ ජයග්‍ර විනය ගරුක වීම වැනි යහපත් හැඳියාවෙන් යුත් උසස් ,එකිනෙකාට ගරු කිරීම පෞර්ෂත්වයෙන් හෙබි උපාධිධාරීන් බිහිකිරීමට හැකි වීම විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයක් ලෙස අප ලැබූ ජයග්‍රහණයක් ,පන කටයුතු ආරම්භ කිරීමටත්නිශ්චිත කාල රාමුවකට අනුව අධ්‍යා යන පරිසරයක් තුළ ජීවිතය සැලසුම් කිරීමට මේ පවත්වාගෙනයාමටත් හැකිවන අධ්‍ය .ණයක්හදරුවන්ට ලැබෙන අවකාශය ඔවුන් ලද ජයග්‍ර

අධ්‍යයන ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ ප්‍රවර්ධනය .

ත්‍රිවිධ හමුදාවන්ට අවශ්‍ය සියලුම වෘත්තීයවේදීන් පුහුණු කිරීමේ අභිලාෂයත්නිම , ඊරීන් බිහි කිරීමේ අභිලාෂයත් මුදුන් පමුණුවා වළල්ලෙන් එහා ලෝකය දකින විද්‍යා ගැනීමේ අරමුණින් වත්මනෙහි

- පශ්චාත් උපාධි අධ්‍යයන පීඨය)Faculty of Graduate Studies),
- ආරක්ෂක අධ්‍යයන හා උපක්‍රමික අධ්‍යයන පීඨය)Faculty of Defence & Strategic Studies) ,
- වෛද්‍ය පීඨය)Faculty of Medicine) ,
- ඉංජිනේරු පීඨය)Faculty of Engineering) ,
- නීති පීඨය)Faculty of Law) ,
- කළමනාකරණ ,සමාජ විද්‍යා හා මානව ශාස්ත්‍ර පීඨය)Faculty of Management, Social Sciences & Humanities) ,
- සම සෞඛ්‍ය විද්‍යා අධ්‍යයන පීඨය)Faculty of Allied Health Sciences) ,
- නිර්මිත පරිසර හා අවකාශීය විද්‍යා පීඨය)Faculty of Build Environment & Spatial Sciences)
- සහ පරිගණක පීඨය)Faculty of Computing)

ඇතුළු පීඨ 09කින් විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය පරිපූර්ණත්වයට පත් කිරීමට හැකිවීම අප කණ්ඩායමක් වශයෙන් ලද ජයග්‍රහණයක් .

වර්තමානයේදී ජාතික හා ජාත්‍යන්තර තලයේ ඉහල පිළිගැනීමක් සහිත ,විශ්වවිද්‍යාල ප්‍රතිපාදන කොමිෂන් සභාව පිළිගැනීම සහිත මූලික උපාධි පාඨමාලා 33ක්ද පශ්චාත් උපාධි පාඨමාලා 11ක්ද පවත්වාගෙන යාමට මේ පීඨ සමත්වී තිබෙනවා .

විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය මගින් පිරිනමන උපාධි පාඨමාලා සඳහා අන්තර්ජාතික පිළිගැනීමක් ලබා ගැනීම සඳහා Association of Commonwealth Universities සහ International Association of Universities සාමාජිකත්වය ලබාගැනීමටද අප ක්රියා කළා.

අග්නිදිග ආසියාව තුළ පමණක් නොව ආසියාව තුළත්අපේ ,න්තරය තුළත්ජාත්‍ය , පසුගිය වසර .ලකුණ සටහන් කර තැබීමට අධිෂ්ඨානශීලීව කටයුතු කිරීමට හැකි වුණා පන ආයතන අතර අවබෝධතා ල හා උසස් අධ්‍යාන්තර විශ්වවිද්‍යාතුළ පමණක් ජාත්‍ය ය පුළුල්වීමඅපේ වපසරි ,ක් ඇති කර ගැනීම 15 ගිවිසුම්ේ තරම කියා පාන්නක් .

යටිතල පහසුකම් සංවර්ධනය.

අධ්‍යාපන ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ දියුණුවට සමාන්තරව ගොඩනැගිලිමාර්ග සහ අනෙකුත් යටිතල , ,පහසුකම් සංවර්ධනය කිරීම සඳහාද විශේෂ අවධානයක් යොමු කරමින්සය මහල් වෛද්‍ය පීඨ ගොඩනැගිල්ල, සය මහල් ඉංජිනේරු පීඨ ගොඩනැගිල්ල ,සත් මහල් සම සෞඛ්‍ය පීඨ ගොඩනැගිල්ල කෙටි කාලයක් තුළ ඉදි කිරීමට අපට හැකි වීම ආඩම්බරයක් .

මීට අමතරව ස්වයං මූල්‍ය අරමුදල් භාවිතා කරමින් ,සත් මහල් පශ්චාත් උපාධි පීඨ ගොඩනැගිල්ල ,සය මහල් බනි සැර නිවසේන ගොඩනැගිලි සංකීර්ණය ,බැංකු ගොඩනැගිල්ල සහ සෙසු නිළ නිවසේන සංකීර්ණයද කෙටි කාලයක් තුළ ඉදිකර අවසන් කරන්න අප සමත් වුණා .

මංමාවත්කාර්යාල ,ඩාගාරක්‍රී ,ගාරවිද්‍යා ,පුස්තකාල ,දේශන ශාලා ,නව ගොඩනැගිලි , ලයේ පැවැත්මට සම්පත් ආධාරක සංකීර්ණ ඉදිකිරීම හා අත්පත් කර ගැනීම විශ්වවිද්‍යා ලය ජආරක්ෂක විශ්වවිද්‍යා .ඒවා නිමාවක් නොවෙයි .පමණයිාත්‍යන්තර මට්ටමට ඔසවා තැබීමේ වගකීම හා වගවීම ඔබ වෙත පැවරෙන යුතුකමක් බව අවධාරණය කරන්න කැමතියි .

පරිපාලන ක්‍රියාවලිය ශක්තිමත් කිරීම .

කළමනාකරණ ක්‍රියාවලිය ශක්තිමත් කිරීමට නම් විශ්වවිද්‍යාල පරිපාලන ව්‍යුහය ශක්තිමත් කල යුතු බව මගේ විශ්වාසයයිසෘජු තීරණ ,ඵනිසා . ගනිමින්විශ්වසනීයත්වය , සැලසුම් .යාවලිය ශක්තිමත් කිරීමට පියවර ගනු ලැබුවාපරිපාලන ක්‍රී ,තහවුරු කරමින් ,අවසාන ඉලක්කය වෙත ළඟා වීම ,යාත්මක කිරීමතීරණ ක්‍රී ,තීරණ ගැනීම ,කිරීම යාවට නැංවීමට කටයුතු කිරීම නිසා කෙටි නියමිත කාල රාමුවට අනුව ක්‍රී ,අවසන් කිරීම කාලයක් තුළ ව්‍යුහාත්මක වශයෙන් විශාල පරිවර්තනයක් කිරීමට අපට හැකි වුණා .

කොආවී රෝහල .වේරහැර -

විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ වෛද්‍ය පීඨය සඳහා නවීන අංගෝපාංගවලින් සමන්විත විශ්වවිද්‍යාලීය රෝහලක් දේශයේවේරහැර ප්‍ර ,ඉදිකිරීමේ කටයුතු ආරම්භ කිරීමට හැකිවීමත් පසුගිය

කාලපරිච්ඡේදයේ අප ලැබූ සුවිශාල ජයග්‍රහණයක් ජනතාවට රණවිරුවන්ට හා සාමාන්‍ය . සමස්ත , පහසුකම් හා රැකවරණය සැපයීමත්නෘතීක වෛද්‍යශ්‍රී ලංකාවේම සෞඛ්‍ය පහසුකම් වර්ධනය කිරීමත් මේ තුළින් අපේක්ෂා කරනවා විශේෂයෙන්ම ආරක්ෂක . හා රැකවරණය සැපයීමලයේ කාර්ය මණ්ඩලය සඳහා ද මේ තුළින් වෛද්‍යවිශ්වවිද්‍යා මේ සැලසුම්වල අපේ අපේක්ෂාව වුණා .

සම සෞඛ්‍ය අධ්‍යයන පීඨය .වේරහැර -

වර්ෂ 2013දී, සම සෞඛ්‍ය අධ්‍යයන පීඨය ස්ථාපිත කරමින් ,ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ හෙද හා පරිපූරක වෛද්‍ය සේවාවන්හි, ගුණාත්මකතාව ඉහල නැංවීමට දායක වීම ජාතික වගකීම ඉටු කිරීමක් ලෙස හඳුන්වන්න කැමතියි .

දක්ෂිණ මණ්ඩපය .සුරිය වැව -

වෙනිදා 05 මැයි මස 2015සියළු පහසුකම් සහිතව දක්ෂිණ මණ්ඩපය සුරිය වැව ප්‍රදේශයේ ස්ථාපිත කිරීමට කටයුතු කිරීම සුවිශේෂ සන්ධිස්ථානයක්අපේ සීමාවන් . පීඨයදක්ෂිණ මණ්ඩපය තුළ නිර්මිත පරිසර හා අවකාශය විද්‍යා ,පුළුල් කරමින්)Faculty of Build Environment & Spatial Sciences) හා පරිගණක පීඨය)Faculty of Computing) ස්ථාපිත කරමින් ත්‍රිවිධ හමුදාවේ කෙටිව නිලධාරීන්ට අමතරව උභය , පනය අපේක්ෂිත දුදරුවන් වෙනුවෙන් උසස් පළාත්වල උසස් අධ්‍යා ,නැගෙනහිර ,දකුණ පනය ලබාගැනීමේ පහසුකම් වැඩිදියුණු කිරීමට ඒ තුළින්අධ්‍යා දායක වීම සමාජ වගකීමක් ඉටු කිරීමක් ලෙස මම දකිනවා .

ත්‍රිවිධ හමුදා නැණ නුවණින් සවිබල ගැන්වීම .

උසස් අධ්‍යාපන කටයුතු ඉදිරියට ගෙන යමින්පුළුල් කිරීම ,පන අවස්ථාපශ්චාත් අධ්‍යා , වෘත්තීමය ,නැණ නුවණින් සවිබල ගන්වා ,විධ හමුදා නිලධාරීන්අපේ රටේ ත්‍රි ,තුළින් ශක්තිමත් අයවලුන් බවට පත් කිරීම ,පිරිපුන් ,ත්හැකියාවන්ගෙභෝෂ්ඨ හමුදා නිලධාරියෙක් ලෙස මගේ වගකීමක් ලෙස සලකමින්එය ඉටු කිරීමට සැමවිටම නිසි , .පියවර ගත්තා

කොතලාවල ආරක්ෂක විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය තුළ,ෂ්ඨ හා කණිෂ්ඨ නිලධාරීන්ටපෝ , මූලික උපාධියේ සිට, දර්ශනපති, උපාධිය දක්වා විවිධ ක්ෂේත්‍රවල උපාධි පිරිනැමීම තුළින්, හමුදාවට අවශ්‍ය, ආරක්ෂක හා මුලෝපායික කළමණාකරණය පිළිබඳ, ගැඹුරු හා තීක්ෂණ දැනුමක් ලබාදීමට ක්‍රියා කළා .

පර්යේෂණ හා ශාස්ත්‍රීය අධ්‍යයන ක්ෂේත්‍රවල පුනරුදය.

මිනිස් අවශ්‍යතා, කාර්යක්ෂමතාව හා, ඵලදායීව ඉටු කිරීමට ,විද්‍යාත්මක වින්තනයේ , වේගයක් ලෙස පර්යේෂණයන්ගේදී ඉතා වැදගත් අංශයක් බව මම උසස් අධ්‍යා , ඉටු කරමින් ,යෝගික පදනමක් මත පිහිටා ප්‍ර ,මේ අනුව පර්යේෂණ .විශ්වාස කළා ලංකාවේ ආර්ථිකය ශ්‍රී ,නවෝත්පාදන බිහිකරමින් ,වෙළඳපොළ පදනම් කර ගෙන පන සංයෝජන ආයතනය පර්යේෂණ හා උසස් අධ්‍යා ,සවිබල ගැන්වීමේ අරමුණින් ස්වා (KDU CARE)පනය කිරීමට පියවර ගන්නා .

පර්යේෂණාත්මක හා ශාස්ත්‍රීය දැනුම තුළින් ලය ඉහල තලයකට ඔසවා විශ්වවිද්‍යා , ,නවනිතවාර්ෂික අන්තර්ජාතික පර්යේෂණ සමුළුව වඩාත් සංවිධානාත්මකව (IRC) වරටත් එය ඉතා අවටෙහි .මිනිසකින් සංවිධානය කිරීමට පියවර ගන්නාහා උසස් ප්‍ර උත්කර්ෂවත් අන්දමින් පවත්වන්න අපට හැකිවුනාලවල ආචාර්ය නා නා විශ්වවිද්‍යා . ,ය හා පර්යේෂණ දැනුම බෙදා හදා ගනිමින් මහාචාර්යවරුන් සමග ශාස්ත්‍රී න්තරයට අපේ දොර කවුළු විවර කරන්නට ඒ තුළින් පියවර ගන්න මට හැකි ජාත්‍ය වුණා

ක්‍රීඩා කුසලතා සංවර්ධනය.

සිත පටන්ගන්නේ ශරීරයෙන් බව ජනප්‍රිය බටහිර කියමනක් තියෙනවාකය ශක්තිමත් . ඩා කුසලතා ල සිසුන්ගේ ක්‍රීඩිශ්වවිද්‍යා .නම් සිත ශක්තිමත් බව ඉන් තහවුරු වෙනවා සංවර්ධනය කිරීමටරගර් සහ ක්‍රිකට් ක්‍රීඩා පිටියක් ඉදි කිරීමටත් ඩා සංවර්ධනය ක්‍රී , යාකළේපුළුල් කිරීමටත් මම ක්‍රී උපකරණ සහ අනෙකුත් පහසුකම් සඳහා අවශ්‍ය ඒ ආදර්ශය පිහිටලා.

නායකත්වය ,අන් මතවලට ගරු කිරීම ,නොසැලී සිටීම ,අභියෝගවලට මුහුණදීම , .ඩාව තුළින් ඉගෙන ගන්නවාතිපත්ති ගරුක වීම වැනි ගුණාංගත් දරුවෝ ක්‍රීප්‍ර

ක්‍රීඩාගාර හා කායවර්ධන මධ්‍යස්ථානය වැඩිදියුණු කරමින් ,ඊට අවශ්‍ය නවීනතම අංගෝපාංගදලබාදෙමින් කටයුතු ක ,ලේ එනිසයිතිපලයක් ලෙස ජාතික හා එහි ප්‍ර . හණ රැසක් අපේ කෙටෙව් නිලධාරීන් හා අනෝවාසික ඩා ජයග්‍රන්තර තලයේ ක්‍රීජාත්‍ය .සිසුන් අත්පත් කර ගැනීමට පසු ගිය කාලයේ සමත් වුණා

නව බඳවා ගැනීම් .

විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ භෞතික සම්පත් සංවර්ධනය පමණක් නොවමානව සම්පත් , සංවර්ධනය සඳහාද ඉතා සුවිශේෂ දායකත්වයක් ලබා දීමට මට හැකි වුණා 2009 . වර්ෂයේ අධ්‍යායන හා අනාධ්‍යායන ස්ථීර කාර්ය මණ්ඩලයේ සංයුතිය .කට සීමා වුණා 200

2016වර්ෂය ආරම්භ වන විට එය එය .ක් දක්වා වර්ධනය කරන්න හැකි වුනා 900 %450ක වර්ධනයක්පතින කිරීම තුළින් ආයතනය සංවර්ධන නව රැකියා අවස්ථා .ය පමණක් නොවසමාජීය සංවර්ධනයක් ඇති කිරීමටත් විශාල දායකත්වයක් ලබා , .දෙන්න මට හැකි වුණා

ඇමරිකාව ප්‍රමුඛ බටහිර රටවල ආකල්පය උගනුන් විශ්‍රාම නොයන බවයිඒ මතය . ල පද්ධතියේ අමීල මෙහෙවරක් ඉටුපිහිටා කටයුතු කල අපට මෙරට ජාතික විශ්වවිද්‍යා මුකල ආචාර්ය මහාචාර්යවරුන් ප්‍රබ ප්‍රාමාණික බුද්ධිමතුන් විශාල පිරිසක් සම්බන්ධ කර ගැනීමට අපට හැකි වුණා .

විශේෂයෙන් විවිධ ක්ෂේත්‍රවල බුද්ධිමතුන් විශ්වවිද්‍යාල පද්ධතියට එක් කර ගැනීමෙන් , .බුද්ධි ගලනයට විසදුමක් සොයා දීමට අපට හැකි වුණා

ඔවුන්ගේ අත්දැකීම්යන පාඨමාලාවලපරිචය අධ්‍යා ,ර්ණත්වයපරිපු , ප්‍රගමනය සඳහා බෙහෙවින් උපකාරී වුණාවිෂයමාලා සංවර්ධනය සඳහා ඔවුන්ගෙන් ලැබුණු . මිතිය හා ගුණාත්මය ඉහල නංවා ගැනීමට අපට දායකත්වය නිසා උපාධි පාඨමාලාවල ප්‍ර .හැකි වුණා

ආධ්‍යාත්මික සංවර්ධන.

භෞතික කොතෙක් දේ ලැබුවත් අධ්‍යාත්මික ගුණ වගාවක් ගොඩනැගුවේ නැත්නම් ඒ සියල්ලට පදනමක් නැහැ .නිවාස තුළත් ගොඩනැගිය යුතුයි ,ඒක ආයතනය තුළත් . ,එනිසා .ගුණ කරනවාසංවරය යහපැවැත්ම පිළිබඳව හොඳින් ප්‍ර ,හමුදාවේදී අපට විනය ලය තුළ තුන් බෝධිය ස්ථාපනය කිරීමෙන් අපිවිශ්වවිද්‍යා අපේක්ෂා කලේ යහපත් අධ්‍යාත්මික පරිසරයක් ගොඩනැගීමයිමුස්ලිම් හා හින්දු ,ඒ විතරක් නොවේ කතෝලික . .ස්ථානයක් ඉදිකිරීමටත් කටයුතු කළාආගම් අදහන අයවලුන් සඳහා සර්වාගමික මධ්‍ය

මේ තුළින්ටත් සමාජයෙන් එල්ලවන කාර්ය මණ්ඩලයට පමණක් නොව ශිෂ්‍ය , නොයෙක් පීඩනයන් නිසා ඇතිවන මානසික ආතතියෙන් මීදෙන්න හොඳ පරිසරයක් ගොඩනගන්න අපට පුළුවන් වුණාත්මික කාර්ය සාධනය ඇතිවීමට මේ අධ්‍යා . .සංවර්ධනය හේතු වෙනවා කියන කාරණය මම විශ්වාස කරනවා

අශෝක දර්ශනයට අනුවඅනෙකාගේ ආගමට ගරු නොකරන්නා තමන්ගේ ආගමට , ,එනිසා කාර්ය මණ්ඩලය තුළත් .ගරු නොකරන බව සඳහන් වෙනවාශිෂ්‍ය ප්‍රජාව තුළත්ආගමික සන්හිදියාවට හොඳ පරිසරයක් ,ජාතික ආගමික සහජීවනය ඇතිවීම , .නිර්මාණය වන බව මගේ විශ්වාසයයි

සේවක සුභසාධනය ඉහල නැංවීම.

නූතන කළමනාකරණ මූලධර්ම අනුව සේවකයා ආයතනය සමග දෙයාකාරයකින් බැඳෙනවාදනෙක් අතින් මානසි .එක අතකින් රාජකාරි වශයෙන් බැඳෙනවා .කව බැඳෙනවා .කරණය වෙව්ව කෙනෙක්න්ත්රිරාජකාරි වශයෙන් බැඳෙන සේවකයා යා . හැබැයි මනසින් බැඳුනු සේවකයාට .නියමිත වෙලාවට යනවා .නියමිත වෙලාවට එනවා ආයතනය සුභසාධන .ඔහු ආයතනයට ආදරය කරනවා .වෙලාවක් කලාවක් නැහැ ආයතන .යාවලින් පුළුල් කරන්නේ සේවකයාට ආදරය කරන කලාවක් ලෙසයික්‍රිය සේවකයාගේ දුක . මග සලසනවාගමනට අවශ්‍ය සේවකයාගේ ,සැප බෙදා ගන්නවා - මේ .සේවකයාට සැලකිල්ලක් දක්වනවා පමණක් නොවෙයි ඔහුට ආදරය කරනවා අපි ඒ සියල්ල අනුගමනය කළේ .යාවලියේ එකිනෙකට බැඳුනු පියවරසුභසාධන ක්‍රි වඩා ,මානසිකව බැඳෙමින් ,ආයතනයත් සේවකයාත් එකිනෙකා තේරුම් ගනිමින් එලදායි සේවාවක් ඇති කිරීමටයි .

අභ්‍යන්තර සේවක උසස්වීම් ක්‍රමවේදයක් හඳුන්වාදෙමින්ඉහල කාර්ය ඵලයක් ඇති , සේවක ,සාද දීමනා ලබා දෙමින්පු ,උසස්වීම් ලබාදෙමින් ,සේවකයින් අගයමින් සේවක .දායකත්වය අගය කරමින් පසුගිය කාල පරිච්ඡේදය තුළ මම කටයුතු කළා සුභස ,සාදවරපු ,ණයාධක පහසුකම් අප්‍රමාදව ලබාදීමට කටයුතු කළේ සේවක සුභසාධනය අගය කල නිසයි .

ඉදිරි දැක්ම .

නීති පීඨය ඇතුලත් බහු විධ පහසුකම් සැපයීමේ සංකීර්ණයක් හා ඉදිකිරීම සඳහා අවශ්‍ය මූලික සැලසුම් මේ වනවිටත් ගොඩනැංවීමට හැකිවීම විශාල ජයග්‍රහණයක්රඵවාහන . වෙළඳ සංකීර්ණයක් හා බහු විධ සේවා මේ තුළින් සැපයීමට අපේක්ෂා ,අංගනයක් ලයේඑමෙන්ම ජාතික ආරක්ෂක විශ්වවිද්‍යා .කරනවාපාඨමාලා සඳහා තේවාසික පහසුකම් සැපයීමත් එතුළින් අපේක්ෂා කරනවා .

ඉදිරි වසර ත්පාදන ආයතනයක් ලය ස්වයං මූලෝත්පාදන ආරක්ෂක විශ්වවිද්‍යා 05 ලය අරමුදල් විශ්වවිද්‍යාරජයට වැය බරක් නොවී අවශ්‍ය .බවට පත් කිරීම අපේ දැක්මයි ස්වාධීන ආයතනයක් බවට ,න්ම සම්පාදනය කර ගනිමින්වෙති පත් කරලීම අපේ අපේක්ෂාවයිසාද හුක්නි සේවකයන්ට ඉහල වැටුප් තල සහිත සුවිශේෂ වරප්‍ර ,මේ තුළින් . විදීමට අවස්ථාව සැලසෙන බව මගේ විශ්වාසයයි

ස්තූතිය.

අවසාන වශයෙන් සිහිපත් කල යුතු කරුණු කිහිපයක් තිබෙනවා .ජාතික වගකීම ඉටු කිරීමේදී සාමූහිකව කටයුතු කිරීම ඉතා අත්‍යවශ්‍යයි. අප එකිනෙකා වෙත පැවරී ඇති වගකීම හා යුතුකම නිසියාකාරව ඉටු කිරීමෙන් ,මිනිස් පවුරක් ලෙස ශක්තිමත්ව අභියෝගවලට මුහුණදිය යුතුයි ඒ තුළින් විජය .ග්‍රහණය ලද හැකි බව ,පසුගිය සත් වසර තුළ අප ඔප්පු කර තිබෙනවා .

ජාතිය සතු එකම ආරක්ෂක විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය ලෙස ,උපාය -උපක්‍රමික වශයෙන් අප අත් පත් කර ගත් ස්ථාවරය ,ඒ ආකාරයෙන්ම පවත්වා ගෙන යෑම අප ඉදිරියේ ඇති අභියෝගයකි.

පසුගිය සත් වසර තුළ අප බොහෝ අත්දැකීම් සම්භාරයක් ලැබුවා උපකුලපති . මෙම .යක්තනතුරක එවැනි දිර්ඝකාලීන අත්දැකීම් ලබා ගැනීම විරල භාග්‍ය ලයේ කවර හෝ කටයුත්තකදී මාවිශ්වවිද්‍යා ලැබූ මේ සුවිශේෂ අත්දැකීම් සමුදාය බෙදාහදා ගන්න කැමතියි .

අප ඉටු කල කාර්ය භාරය සැබෑ ලෙසම ඇගයීමට ලක් කිරීමට නම් ඉදිරි පස් වසර තුළ , අතරට 05 ල ලංකාවේ ජාතික විශ්වවිද්‍යානිරසාර කාර්ය සැලැස්මක් ඇතිව ශ්‍රී ලය ඔසවා තබන ලෙස මම ඔබෙන් ඉල්ලාෂක විශ්වවිද්‍යාකොතලාවල ආරක්ෂිතව සිටිනවා . ඇතුලත 10 එමෙන්ම අධිෂ්ඨානශීලිව කටයුතු කිරීමෙන් ඉදිරි වර්ෂ ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ ජාතික විශ්වවිද්‍යාල අතර ප්‍රමුඛයාවීමට කොතලාවල ආරක්ෂක විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයට හැකි වේවායි ප්‍රර්ථනා කරනවා .

මේ සියල්ල අප ඉදිරියේ ඇති අභියෝගඒවා ජයගැනීමට ජාතික වගකීම නොපිරිහෙලා . ඉටු කිරීමට ,සාමූහිකව ,එක පවුලක් ලෙස එක්ව කටයුතු කිරීමට ,තිර අදිටන් කර ගන්නා ලෙස ඉල්ලා සිටිනවා .

අවසාන වශයෙන් මාතෘ භූමිය වෙනුවෙන් යුතුකම් ඉටුකිරීමටත් හණයේජයග්‍ර ,ඉලක්ක හඹා යන්නටත් මා සවි බල ගැන්වූ ඔබ සියලුම දෙනා වෙත මගේ ප්‍රණාමය පිරිනැමීම යුතුකමක් කොට සලකමි .

කොතලාවල ආරක්ෂක විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ දියුණුව හා උන්නතිය සඳහා නිරන්තරයෙන් දිරිගන්වමින් අවශ්‍ය මගපෙන්වීම් ලබාදුන් හිටපු අතිගරු ජනාධිපති මහින්ද රාජපක්ෂ මැතිතුමාටත් හා වත්මන් අතිගරු ජනාධිපති මෛත්‍රීපාල සිරිසේන මැතිතුමාටත් කෘතචේදිත්ව පිරිනැමීම මගේ යුතුකමකි .

එමෙන්ම හිටපු හා වත්මන් ආරක්ෂක ලේකම්වරුන්ටත්විධ හිටපු හා වත්මන් ත්‍රි ,
,පාලක මණ්ඩල සභිකයන්ටත් ,අතිරේක ලේකම්වරුන්ටත් ,හමුදාපතිවරුන්ටත්
නිපාදන කොමිෂන් සභාවේ සභාපතිවරුන්ටත් මගේ කෘතචේදීන්වල ප්‍රවිශ්විද්‍යා
.පිරිනමනවා

ගමන් මග සාර්ථක කර ගැනීමට ඇප කැපවී මා සමග සහයෝගයෙන් කටයුතු කල
දක්ෂිණ මණ්ඩපාධිපති මේජර් ජෙනරාල් ලාල් ගුණසේකර උපකුලපතිනියෝජ්‍ය ,
යන අධ්‍යාහිටපු නියෝජ්‍ය ,මේජර් ජෙනරාල් රුවන් කුලතුංග (ආරක්ෂක හා පාලන)
ය නිලක් ෂ්ඨ මහාචාර්යෝ ,ශ්‍රී ජ්‍ය මහාචාර්ය සුසිරිත් මෙන්ඩිස්උපකුලපතිවරුන් වන ජෝ
උපකුලපවීරසූරිය හා වත්මන් නියෝජ්‍යති ෂ්ඨ මහාචාර්ය ජයන්ත ජෝ (යනඅධ්‍ය)
ආචාර්ය මහාචාර්යවරුන් ,ක්ෂවරුන්අධ්‍ය ,ආර්යරත්න ඇතුළු සියලුම පීඨාධිපතිවරුන්
ධාන විධායක අධිකාරී හා අණ දෙන නිලධාරී ප්‍ර ,යන කාර්ය මණ්ඩලයඇතුළු අධ්‍ය
,ධාන සිවිල් කාර්ය මණ්ඩලයධිකාරී ප්‍රමුලය ලේඛකාධිකාරී හා ,සේවා කාර්ය මණ්ඩලය
විශ්වවිද්‍යාලීය රෝහල් ව්‍යාපෘතියේදී සහය දැක්වූ මහාචාර්යවරුන් ආචාර්යවරුන්
ප්‍රධාන අධ්‍යයන කාර්ය මණ්ඩල සාමාජිකයන්සියලුම සේවා හා සිවිල් කාර්ය ,
තු ලීය කටයුතුඅනෝවාසික සිසුන් හා විශ්වවිද්‍යා , හට නිලධාරීන්සේවා ශිෂ්‍ය ,මණ්ඩලය
සාර්ථක කර ගැනීමට නන් අයුරින් සහය දැක්වූ සියලු ප්‍රජාවන්ට මගේ ස්තූතියත් හා
කෘතචේදීන්වයත් පිරිනමමි.

ඔබ සියලුදෙනාටමත්නිරෝගීමත් යහපත් ජීවිතයක් හා සියලු යහපත් ,දුවා දරුවන්ටත් ,
.ර්ථනා කරමිඛලාපොරොත්තු ඉටු වන ඉසුරුමත් අනාගතයක් වේවායි ප්‍ර

ඔබ සැමට තෙරුවන් සරණයි .