



Editor

Eng. D.D.S.Jayawardena

# OPA NEWS

Volume No 11/01 – February 2013

## Induction of 32<sup>nd</sup> OPA President.



Mr. Benedict Uluwshewa was inducted as the 32nd President of the OPA, by the founder President Dr. Nath Amarakoon, at the Ball Room of Galadari Hotel on the 10th January 2013, in the presence of a distinguished gathering. Mr. Basil Rajapaksa, Minister of Economic Affairs was the Chief Guest, while Mr. Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Power and Energy, attended as the Guest of Honour. Dr. T.A.G. Gunasekara delivered the guest lecture.

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## Presidents of Associations feel OPA should play bigger role regarding National Issues.

The President and Office-Bearers of the OPA had a discussion with the Presidents of Member Associations, at the OPA Auditorium on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2013. 20 Presidents and Representatives of Associations were present.

Most of the Presidents were of the view that the OPA should be more pro-active and should play the lead role in highlighting the views of professionals on national issues. Mr. Upul Jayasuriya, President of BASL pointed out the threat to democracy and the independence of the judiciary and called upon the OPA to support the Bar Association to draw the attention of the public to the situation.

Mr. Sujeewa Rajapaksa, President ICASL and several other participants were of the view that the OPA is wasting precious time at Forum and Ex-Co meetings discussing minor issues concerning administrative matters and at the end of the meetings, they have nothing to report to their associations. Several members said they kept away from subsequent meetings, as they felt no useful purpose would be served by attending these meetings. They requested the present administration to streamline the proceedings and ensure that more serious matters involving professional and national issues be

discussed. It was also suggested that there should be a way of encouraging more members to participate at discussions instead of allowing the same members to speak repeatedly. Eng. Shavi Fernando, President-Elect, IESL also agreed with these views.

Mrs. Chandrika Fernando, of the Applied Statistics Association, who was very critical of the way meetings are conducted, said that there was very little concern regarding women participants. The women members wanted the time of meetings to be advanced from 6.00pm, as they had many other problems including transport.

Some of the other suggestions that were agreed to are,

1. To organize regular joint technical programmes with member associations,
2. To publish items of interest from member associations, in the quarterly newsletter,
3. To invite key ministers for discussions on important issues,
4. To inform the Presidents of member associations all relevant decisions taken by the Forum, and
5. To conduct quarterly meetings with the Presidents of member associations

Mr. Benedict Uluvishewa , President OPA said that the Ex-co has approved a programme to display the talents of young engineers.

The meeting was very fruitful. One member even quipped that this meeting was more useful than all the Forum meetings he had attended earlier!

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### **“Economic Road Map of Sri Lanka 2013”**



A well attended Seminar on “ **Economic Road Map of Sri Lanka 2013**” was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at 6.00PM at the Auditorium of the OPA. The main presentation was made by Mr. Ajith Nivard Cabraal, Governor of the Central Bank.

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### **Resolution adopted by the Executive Council on the 13<sup>th</sup> Amedment to the Constitution**

**The Organisation of Professional Associations of Sri Lanka (OPA)** having considered that:

- a. Neither the Government nor the people of Sri Lanka requested or called for the introduction of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution;
- b. 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment failed to achieve the purported purpose for which the said amendment was thrust and forced on the people and the Government of Sri Lanka, namely the end to the separatist war waged by terrorists;
- c. Terrorism was finally defeated by the Government and people of Sri Lanka not with the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment but with the cooperation of the people of Sri Lanka and the armed forces 22 years after the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment was introduced;
- d. The Provincial Council system created under the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment has totally failed creating additional and unbearable financial burdens on the people of Sri Lanka and adding additional administrative confusions, burdens, misery and hardships to the people;
- e. Provincial Councils or any such alike system, as was shown in the first North-East Provincial Council, is a temptation to separatism and also segregation of the people;
- f. 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment is a threat to the sovereignty, independence and unitary status of Sri Lanka;
- g. There is a visible threat to the very identity of every citizen of Sri Lanka as Sri Lankans belonging to one country and one nation and the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment or any such laws should be repelled and rejected

**However OPA notes that** the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment contains certain provisions which are valuable and salutary, and such provisions need to be retained with necessary amendments to the Constitution. OPA verily believes that these provisions need to be further expanded for the benefit of the people.

**Therefore OPA requests the President,** the Government and leaders of all political parties to effectively support –

1. The repeal of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution but introduce amendments to the Constitution:
  - a. To retain both Sinhala and Tamil Languages as Official Languages of Sri Lanka;
  - b. Make English the National Language of Sri Lanka (presently under 13A English is the link language) or in the alternative to make all three languages National Languages;
  - c. Increase the number of Judges in the Court of Appeal and empower the said Court to exercise jurisdiction from provinces thereby having such Courts permanently in the Provinces;
  - d. Vest the original jurisdiction to hear and determine any question relating to the infringement and imminent infringement of any fundamental right in the Court of Appeal with provision (by amending present Article 127) of a final appeal to the Supreme Court.

2. To examine an alternative system to the present provincial council system where such system will promote the welfare of the people with equal distribution of the resources and develop the country as a whole and building national unity among all sections of the people. Such a system, OPA feels, should not encourage additional political representatives but engage the services of those elected to Parliament and local authority institutions to develop the village and the district;
3. To assign from the National List to the Parliament such segments of the society that are not represented and/or elected to the Parliament, such as the farmers, Ayurveda practitioners, trade unions and from the civil society.

**OPA appeals to all religious leaders** and the people to support to abolish the present provincial council system and work for the development of the country and alleviate the burdens of the people through the representatives in the Parliament and local authority institutions.

**OPA further notes** that there are many provisions in the Constitutions that requires to be examined with a view to repealing or amending such provisions, such as the repeal of the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment, the role of the executive presidential system, supremacy of the Parliament, independence of the Judiciary and reestablishing the sovereignty of the people. Thus, the OPA urges the constitution of a competent panel representing all sections of the people to examine the provisions of the present Constitution and to recommend necessary amendments to promote democracy and welfare of the people.

**OPA** will render all assistance required to achieve the above, and more if such is proposed, including promoting discussions and debates and to facilitate such discussions and debates.

**OPA also appeals** to the nations of the world to recognize and respect the sovereignty of Sri Lanka and Her people to introduce such laws as are considered necessary and required in keeping with the generally universally accepted principles.

Benedict Ulluwishewa  
President

**Press Release on Inhuman Punishment given to Ms. Rizana Nafeek in Saudi Arabia** The Organisation of Professional Associations of Sri Lanka (OPA) is deeply saddened at the execution of Rizana Nafeek by the Saudi Arabian authorities. The barbaric and inhuman punishment given to this young person has come as a shock not only to us but to all decent people in the world.

At the time Rizana Nafeek was accused of causing the death of a baby under her care she was only 17 years old. According to the reports, the said death may have been an accident and not due to any act of Rizana. Whatever the case may be, this young person did not deserve to be condemned and punished in the manner that was done. OPA unreservedly condemns the cruel and inhuman punishment meted out to Rizana and calls upon the Government of Sri Lanka to immediately halt the migration of its citizens to countries that practice barbaric laws and enslave the migrant workers. We have noted hundreds of our citizens have been subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment at the hands of psychopathic employers. It is the duty and the responsibility of our Government to provide financial support for those suffering from poverty to discourage them from seeking employment in such countries.

OPA calls upon all professionals in the provinces and districts to educate the people of their respective areas of the danger in seeking employment in countries that practice inhuman and uncivilized laws and where the employers subject their employees to cruel and inhuman punishments.

OPA also calls upon the United Nations and Human Rights Groups to condemn without reservation the execution of Rizana Nafeek.

OPA shares the agony and grief of the family of Rizana Nafeek and extends its condolences to the family.

**Benedict K Ulluwishewa**  
**President**

### **An Appreciation-**



### **Eng. Tudor Munasinghe**

Eng. Tudor Munasinghe passed away on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2012. At the time of his demise he was the General Secretary of the OPA, having been a Vice President. He also held several other positions earlier.

I met Tudor when he came to the Organisation of Professional Association (OPA) initially as a Forum member and worked his way to occupy various positions in the OPA and rose to become its General Secretary.

An old Anandian who brought credit to his alma mater he had his post graduate education in the United Kingdom and worked as a consulting engineer

He was a Chartered Civil Engineer by profession and has specialized in structural engineering. and has had exposure in engineering projects having worked in foreign countries such as Nigeria and Hong Kong

Having spent a considerable part of professional life abroad he returned to his country of birth to contribute towards the development of the country. During his stay in the country he had associated himself with various organization such as the Chamber of Construction Industry, Association of Consulting Engineers , IESL and the Colombo South Rotary Club.

At the OPA he organised training for those who were interested in Bridge and conducted competitions to encourage others. He was also the Chairman of Urban Development Authority for a short period and left because he disliked interference by others.

He was involved in various other projects of the OPA such as preparing the 17<sup>th</sup> amendment to the national constitution. He was an active member of the National Issue Committee and was its Chairman for several years. He also contributed regularly to both OPA Journal and OPA News.

His interest in professional and social matters even at the risk of his health was well known. The Annual Report presented at the AGM last year which was the last assignment he undertook before his demise was read out for him at the meeting

He was an indefatigable worker who ignored his health to reach the goal he set out to achieve. We in the OPA sorely miss him and wish to join his family and friends to mourn his loss.

May he attain the Supreme Bliss of Nirvana

W.B.A. Jayasekara

Past President.

### **Resolution Adopted by the Executive Council on the Motion to Impeach the Chief Justice**

**WHEREAS** to exercise and enjoy their inalienable Sovereignty the People of Sri Lanka have delegated: to their elected representatives in Parliament their legislative power; to their elected President their executive power; and to the Judiciary their judicial power save and except in matters relating to the privileges, immunities and powers of Parliament and of its Members which may be exercised directly by Parliament according to law;

**AND WHEREAS** the responsibility of ensuring strict observance of the Rule of Law rests and vests primarily with the Judiciary which exercises the Judicial Power delegated to them by the People;

**AND WHEREAS** the above can only be achieved if the judiciary is independent of any pressures from any source whether such source is the Executive, the Legislature or any other organ or person or persons;

**AND WHEREAS** the special power to remove a Judge of the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeal is strictly limited under Article 107(2) of the Constitution to that "of proved misbehavior or incapacity"

**AND WHEREAS** such proof cannot be based on political consideration but only on findings by an Independent Panel of Judicial Officers acting according to the accepted principles

**AND WHEREAS** the process already set in motion to consider impeachment of the Chief Justice in terms of Standing Order No.78A is contrary to fundamental principles in the Constitution and also to the accepted norms and practice prevalent in democratic societies and is in violation of the Sovereignty of the People

**AND WHEREAS** to continue with the present motion to impeach the Chief Justice will cause irreparable and irremedial harm to the independence of the Judiciary and also create unnecessary friction between the Organs that exercise the Sovereignty of the People.

**THEREFORE** after considering the above the Organisation of Professional Associations of Sri Lanka requests His Excellency the President, the Speaker of the Parliament and all elected representatives to:

- (1) Stay further action in respect of the resolution to impeach the Chief Justice;
- (2) Amend the Constitution to incorporate the provisions contained in Clause 151(4) of the Bill to repeal and replace the present Constitution presented to the Parliament on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2000 by the then Minister of Justice, Constitutional Affairs, Ethnic Affairs and National Integration (which Bill was presented after holding 77 meetings over several years and having taken into account and fully considering the views of all political parties), which reads as –

“A resolution for the presentation of such an address shall not be entertained by the Speaker or placed on the Order Paper of Parliament unless –

- (a) Notice of such resolution is signed by not less than one-third of the total number of Members of Parliament and sets out full particulars of the alleged misbehavior or incapacity; and
- (b) An inquiry has been held –
  - (i) In the case of Chief Justice by a committee consisting of three persons each of whom hold, or have held, office as a judge in the highest court of any Commonwealth country;
  - (ii) In case of any other judge referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article, by a committee consisting of three persons who hold, or have held, office as a Judge of the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeal created and established by the Constitution, the 1978 Constitution or any other law,

and appointed by the Speaker to inquire into allegations of misbehavior or incapacity made against the Chief Justice or such Judge, as the case may be, and such committee has found that the allegation of misbehavior or incapacity has been established against such Judge.”

Benedict K Ulluwishewa  
President

### **From Restaurant & Bar Committee**

The Restaurant and Bar Committee in its commitment to serve the Members as best they could have been able to offer the Members many facilities during the course of last year. This was due to the introduction of many innovations to serve the Members better. These as have been already detailed to you consist of a very comfortable sophisticated Family Lounge with a private Fine Dining Area, a remodeled and extended Bar, a completely revamped Restaurant, a Beer Garden with sophisticated Beer Garden furniture and equipment and Marquee Tents five in number three of 20ft x 10ft and two of 10x 10ft which could not only be used as Restaurant extension and for Beer Garden Buffets but could also be hired by Members for much reduced rates for their functions at home. A Sound System has also been installed with Piped Music or Music of your choice in the Bar Lounge, Restaurant and Beer Garden which could either be operated together or separately in one or more places.

We are pleased to note that as a result, these extended facilities are being very frequently used by Members for their family functions as well as other General functions and the associations too are making full use of them.

Our latest introduction which was introduced last month is a giant screen (10x8ft) with a Projector in the Restaurant. This would eliminate the necessity and expense of Members hiring Live Bands for their functions by playing their own Live in Concert DVDs and other Bands (DVDs) of their choice. It has also been so connected that you can use your own laptops if you need to, which would enable you to have your own luncheon or Dinner meetings in the Restaurant with life size presentations. All T.V. programmes both national and Dialog and any movies of your choice could also be viewed on the wide screen. Facilities have also been provided for the Members to enjoy Karaoke Music with three (3) Microphones in attendance. It is our endeavour to offer these facilities to Members at a fairly nominal charge for their private family gatherings and to our Associations at a reduced rate for their Association functions and normal charges at all other functions. These would be intimated to you in due course.

We could also in all humility place before you the fact that due to all these innovations which were widely used by Members, the Restaurant, Lounge, the Beer Garden and the Bar have together made a profit of around 1.4 million and the most encouraging feature being that even the Bar which was showing losses perennially for many years have recovered and registered a profit of over Rs.80,000/- in spite of the existing constraints.

It would be our endeavour this year too to be of even greater service to Members and to offer them whatever other facilities which the Members may require which are within our purview. Towards this end we would be most thankful for your continued advice assistance, ideas suggestions criticisms etc that would help us in our endeavour. Your co-operation and assistance last year was the key to our success, and we would rest assured of your co-operation and assistance this year too.

Nihal Serasinha

Chairman, Restaurant & Bar Committee

## **Articles for the OPA Journal May 2013**

Members are kindly requested to contribute articles to the next issue of the OPA journal due in May 2013. Please forward your articles to the Editor, before the 10th April, 2013. The articles should be

- (a) original and of topical interest
  - (b) not more than 3500 words (Approx. 8 A4 pages)
  - © submitted to the OPA in soft form (MS word format), by e-Mail or through a storage medium, together with a Hard copy.
  - (d) of font size 11 (text), 12 (Sub Headings), 14 (Headings) and lettering Calibri
  - (e) free from any derogatory remarks to individuals or organizations AND
  - (f) with a synopsis of approx. 250 words.
- Authors are also requested to send in a brief bio data.

Regarding acceptance of the article for publication the decision of the Editor, in consultation with the Editorial Board will be final.

The E-Mail address for forwarding articles is, [sumithraj0@gmail.com](mailto:sumithraj0@gmail.com)



**Skills Upgrading Workshop conducted by the OPA in Collaboration with the Department of Technical Education & Training for Semi Skilled Craftsmen engaged in the Building Industry**

**17<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2013 at Technical College, Polonnaruwa**



**Inauguration**

**Section of Participants**



**Distribution of Certificates**

## Photos from the Induction Ceremony

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Members of the head table.

Mr. Champika Ranawaka is introduced to office-bearers



A section of the audience

**Office Bearers 2012/2013**

**President**

Mr. Benedict K Ulluwishewa

**President-Elect**

Mr.V Ganesh

**General Secretary**

Mr.Aruna Fernando

**Treasurer**

Mr. P Laknath C Peiris

**Vice Presidents**

Mr. S A Athureliya

Mr. Raja B M Korale

Mr.M N Gunasekera

Mr. Jayanta Jayaratne

Mr.Danesha Perera

Mr.Adrian Perera

Mr. Leo M E P Perera

Mr.Sriyani Ranatunge

Mr.Nihal Serasinha

Mr.G Upasiri

Mr. Lalith A P Wijetunga

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**Asst. Treasurer**

Mr. Keerthi Mihiripenna



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What happens if a politician drowns in a river? That is pollution.

What happens if all of them drown? That is solution!!!

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Politics is the gentle art of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich, by promising to protect each from the other.

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Q: What's the difference between mother & wife?

A: One woman brings you into the world crying & the other ensures you continue to do so.

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**Alcohol is a perfect solvent:**

**It dissolves marriages, families and careers.**

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Success is relative. More the Success, more the Relatives.

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Search a beautiful heart not a beautiful face.  
Beautiful things are not always good  
but good things are always beautiful.

*The Buddha*

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There are two theories to arguing with a woman. Neither works.

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Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment

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Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build a bridge even where there is no river.  
~Nikita Khrushchev,

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“You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.”

— Mae West

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“Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much.”

— Oscar Wilde

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“I am enough of an artist to draw freely upon my imagination. Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world.”

— Albert Einstein

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