

## **INSPIRED TO GO BEYOND: A JOURNEY TO SUCCESS.**

### **A Successful transformation of a state sector organization**

Sudath D. Tennakoon

*sudath.t@gmail.com*

*Doctoral Student, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka*

### ***Synopsis***

One of the key need for the economic and social development of a country is to fulfil its industrial and domestic power demand. Sri Lankan government anticipated the need at that time in 1970s and made plans to utilise hydroelectric power by implementing new projects.

Sri Lanka mainly depends on hydroelectric power since it is a country rich in water resources and rainfall. The main focus was on Mahaweli River and the government commenced feasibility studies to assess the yield. To expedite the work, they established a separate body called ‘Mahaweli authority’ to implement this massive development scheme planned to complete in a 30 years’ time. To supervise the work, the government established an organisation called ‘Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau’ (CECB) to work as the local partner to the consultant and the project manager to resettlement works.

After a new government came into power in 1977, the new president of the country wanted to reduce the 30-year duration to six years. To facilitate this acceleration, he established a separate ministry and a separate minister to look after the total program and related works. Thereafter, CECB was given the power and authority to look after this accelerated program as the local partner consultant while shouldering the resettlement work related to the development work. To strengthen this newly formed organisation, the president appointed one of the eminent engineer, Dr A.N.S.Kulasinghe as the first Chairman of CECB.

Chairman Kulasinghe managed to expand the resource base of CECB by recruiting engineers and other technical staff in various engineering disciplines to cater to this massive hydropower development scheme. Mahaweli development scheme consisted of four major reservoirs; Victoria, Kothmale, Randenigala and Rantembe. All the projects were handled by reputed international