DR.NANADASA NARAYANA, THE PIONEER OF FLEXPORT

He was the first Sri Lankan to win first price under the Asian Miracle programme for his new green packaging concept launched through two new products namely, " PacGro" and "CoirPac", which boasts of a US$ 645 Million market.

The age-long adage says "Each person who is born in this world is blessed with a specific aptitude". However, Dr.Nandadasa Narayana, pioneer of Flexport Innovation (Pvt) Limited disproved this proverbial expression by his new inventions to unravel problems encountered by the world and thereby securing the prestigious award of the Best Inventor in Asia.

Dr.Narayana who emphatically advocated that the "economic war" that is prevailing in Sri Lanka over the last 74 years could only be conquered by introducing "New Product Economy". A strategy was also implemented due to his dogged exertion over 3 decades as a Commissioner of Inventions to encourage new inventors in 6,000 schools.

From the time Mr.Mahinda Rajapakse was the Member of Parliament for Mulkirigala Electorate, Dr.Narayana emphasized the need to promote digital technology among children in villages, using satellite know-how.

Development work and experiments carried out with the help of American Foundry Men's Society with the guidance of Sir Arthur C. Clerk postulated to be a blessing for him to lay the foundation of "Nena Sal". The saga ended only after the Satellite Communication Award developed by Flexport using new innovations was handed over to Dr.McLucas, the Director General of NASA. Dr.Narayana was fortunate to visit Who's Who World Catalogue and NASA at the invitation of Dr.McLucas. This helped him immensely to understand many important matters that need be completed by the year 2025 resulting in the establishment of a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Unit named" Flexciied" (Flexport Center for Innovation incubation & Enterprise Development) under the wings of Flexport with a strong ethos to produce new products within Social, Spiritual

and Environmental spheres. The silent contribution by Flexport Center for Innovation Incubation & Enterprise Development greatly contributed in developing 50,324 entrepreneurs in 104 coconut growing countries, as reported by WIPO-WPO Asia Pacific Coconut Consortium.

Dr.Narayana was adjudged the Best Entrepreneur in Sri

Lanka and he was also recognized with two world awards as the Best Inventor in Asia at the Geneva Inventors Exhibition. It may perhaps be a coincidence that is daughter, Nayomi Kularatne was adjudged of the Best Designer at the competition conducted by Sri Lanka Export Development Board.

Dr.Narayana is the proud father of educated children, where many of them have excelled as effective managers in their chosen fields. Nalaka Kularatne, a son-in-law has been instrumental in effectively handling the Japanese Solar Energy Project at Hambantota. Eldest son-in-law, Dr.Asanga Pathmaperuma was responsible for obtaining OELD-Mobile/Flexible TV patent rights for the first time in the world to Samsung Organization. Sujeewa Padmasiri who was the chairman of IT Security at Certiss Institute in Singapore was the pioneer in introducing a paperless landing system at Boeing. Further, Dr.Pathmaperuma was instrumental in introducing 125 new product methods, using discarded coconut materials after the production of Coirpack and PackGro. Furthermore, he was able to obtain the assistance of the Chairmen of American and Indian Franchise organizations to promote new innovations of disabled Sri Lankan soldiers in the world, while securing a 10% export order from the U.S.A Army.

It was the guiding principle of Dr.D.W.Wimalasurendra, grandfather of Dr.Narayana, hailed as the pioneer of hydroelectricity in Sri Lanka to continue good work instead of commonly popular lip service. Dr.Narayana followed the principle of his grandfather and as a result most people are unaware that a sum of Rs.38 billion foreign exchange has been earned with the production of packaging materials under the patent rights of Flexport, using discarded coconut waste. Dr.Narayana developed a 3D printer having spent his savings over 50 years to assist exporters of new innovations to make their own prototypes within Sri Lanka. Further, Dr.Narayana set an amazing example to develop Women Inventive Entrepreneurship that has been successful in drawing the attention of WIPO. A programme was launched with the assistance of American and Indian Franchise institutions, American Angel Levestor, SANASA and the guidance of Co-operative Societies to deploy home based unemployed women to provide a wholesome breakfast to school children using several toxic free varieties of rice.

Distribution of laptops among university students under the patronage of Prime Minister Ranil Wickramasinghe in 2016 paved the way for university students to enter the domain of digital economy. However, although the “Nena Sala” project initiated 10 years ago during the era of Mr.Mahinda Rajapakse is now defunct, only a handful of people are aware that it was this project that laid the foundation for Flexport Innovation Center to commence a new entrepreneurship network under the CSR of Flexciied. Arrangements are being made to implement the “New Innovation Economy” launched by Flexciied with the involvement of graduates after 13 years of mandatory school education as well as disabled soldiers backed by US Aid to become entrepreneurs immediately after receiving required funds from state banks, who continue to draw the maximum benefits of these entrepreneurs.

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