

# Speaker lauds services rendered by SUNFO

by Ananda Kannangara

Speaker K.B. Ratnayake recently highlighted the valuable services rendered by the Sri Lanka-United Nations Friendship Organisation (SUNFO) to create peace and harmony among various communities in the country and also uplift the living standards of needy persons by providing them with necessary infrastructure facilities during the past one year.

He was speaking at a conference held at the BMICH in Colombo to mark the first anniversary of SUNFO. Nearly, 2000 SUNFO members from area branches attended the conference presided over by SUNFO, Director- General Dr. Deshapriya S. Wijetunge.

Delivering the keynote address in Sinhala, Tamil and English Dr. Ratnayake said that peace and non violence are the most vital factors needed today to solve the country's ethnic conflict. The unending war has destroyed the valuable lives and ruined the country's economy during the past two decades.

Therefore, we must proudly appreciate the work

being carried out by SUNFO during the past one year for the sake of less fortunate citizens in this country irrespective of their caste, creed or religion. The SUNFO also developed the brotherhood among communities and tightened the gap among all.

SUNFO, Director - General Deshapriya S. Wijetunge said that their next aim was to find for a suitable piece of land in the country to the extent of nearly 500 acres and build a friendship village. Then the member countries of the SUNFO will be given an opportunity to commence their own cultural activities in this village and launch their development programs towards the welfare of needy children and elders in the country.

SUNFO President Dr. Baptist Croos said that during the past one year the SUNFO not only promoted unity, peace and harmony among various communities but also reached out to other districts and provinces countrywide with the intention of performing charitable work for the benefit of the less fortunate and the marginalised of society.