

FROM THE EDITOR...

The Mahaweli System L that is bounded by Anuradhapura, Trincomalee and Mulativu districts is one of the 13 independent development areas identified in the master plan of Mahaweli Ganga Development Program (MGDP). Presently, it has two major irrigation schemes known as Padaviya and Thannimurippu and there is a mass of minor ancient irrigation tanks that could be used only for Maha Season and it is one of the least developed areas of the MGDP. In order to alleviate and to improve the living standards of the people of Sampath Nuwara in Vavuniya and Mulativu districts, it is proposed to harness the unutilized water in Kivul Oya, which is the left bank main tributary of Ma Oya. The right bank of the tributary, called Mora Oya, is feeding the Padaviya tank which belongs to the Irrigation Department.



Even though originally it was intended to augment System L from Mahaweli waters through North Central Province canal, according to present water balance studies, additional water from Mahaweli sources is most unlikely to be delivered. Hence it is required to utilize in-basin water resources in developing system L area. To achieve this it is proposed to construct a reservoir across Kivul Oya. Proposed Kivul Oya reservoir irrigable area is located in Vavuniya and Mulativu districts while reservoir bed area lies in the Vavuniya district.

The Kivul Oya reservoir project envisages the construction of 64.33 MCM capacity Kivul Oya Reservoir across Kivul Oya and construction of 12.9 km long main canal to irrigate 1700 ha of new lands on left bank of Ma Oya and right bank of Chooriyan Aru (Weli Oya). The length of the main dam is 4.41 km and the maximum height is 18.9 m. In addition, it is proposed to construct a feeder canal starting from above main canal to augment 700 ha of existing lands under Nika Wewa, Ehatugas Wewa, Kiri Ibban Wewa, Helembe Wewa and paddy areas under existing weirs across Welioya. In addition to irrigation infrastructure, it is intended to provide other infrastructure developments that would reinforce and enhance the benefits from the irrigation infrastructure. Under the project, it is planned to improve health, education, and marketing facilities, internal road network and access roads connecting project areas to major towns. In addition to above, a pipe born water supply system is planned to improve accessibility for safe water and sanitation and improve farm income by agriculture and livestock development in the Sampath Nuwara area.

Total project cost is Rs. 6000 Million while irrigation infrastructure development cost is Rs. 4300 Million and other infrastructure development cost is Rs. 1700 Million. The project is currently at the design stage and once constructed, it will certainly upgrade the food security of the country.

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