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Milestones

Tributes

Creative writings of Jezima Ismail

A random selection of articles and poems

by Jezima Ismail

Acknowledgements

Title : **JEZIMA**
A collection of tributes to Deshabandu
Jezima Ismail
(President Emeritus of the Sri Lanka
Muslim Wprny'^Conference)

Edited by : Yasmin Raheemu* ft «A

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- * Sri Lanka Malay Association

F O R E W O R D

It is a pleasure and privilege to be invited to pen a few lines on behalf of the Sri Lanka Muslim Women's Conference on the happy occasion of the release of a collection of writings to felicitate a distinguished Sri Lankan - Deshabandu Jezima Ismail.

Dr. Jinna Sherifdeen mooted the idea of bringing out a collection of "reflections" in recognition of Mrs. Jezima Ismail's services to the Muslim community and to the nation. This suggestion drew a ready response from us all who regard her as our mentor. This book is the result and reflects our admiration of her services and gratitude for her role as an inspiring leader.

Mrs. Ismail is a lady of varied interests and activities. She has excelled in all her roles and perfection appears to come to her naturally. She is an eminent educationist. She passionately believes in inter-faith and inter-communal harmony and the empowerment of women and has worked tirelessly towards these ends.

She is the founder of several organizations covering a gamut of activities including social service, poverty alleviation, education and empowerment of women. She is the founder President of the Sri Lanka Muslim Women's Conference (SLMWC) which is an umbrella organization of Muslim women's organizations. She steered the Conference through its initial stages and sustained it thereafter by providing us with inspiring leadership as President for nearly three decades.

Whilst in no way compromising her faith and her concerns for the community, she has been a true Sri Lankan and has always endeavoured to promote inter-communal harmony and fashion a Sri Lankan identity. She actively engages herself in alleviating the suffering imposed by the armed conflict on the unfortunate Muslim women in the Eastern Province.

If I may strike a personal note, I have found in Mrs. Ismail an inspiring role model. She leads by example and I am grateful to her for her advice and support which she has extended to me at all times. She has the capacity to interact with persons from all walks of life without being condescending. She is elegant and charming. She is articulate and combines excellence and ability without losing the feminine touch.

Her activities and achievements are too numerous to chronicle. We trust that this collection of essays will provide an insight into her varied activities and serve as an expression of our gratitude and admiration.

We praise Almighty Allah for granting us the privilege of learning from her and working with her. May Almighty Allah accept her services. May she also be blessed with good health, long life and every happiness.

May I conclude by referring to one of her favourite poems which has guided and inspired her:

*"I expect to pass through this world but once
Any good therefore, that I can do, or
Any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature
Let me not defer or neglect it.
For I shall not pass this way again. "*

Sikhamani Ameena Musthapha
President
Sri Lanka Muslim Women's Conference



Deshabandu Jezima Ismail President Emeritus of the Sri Lanka Muslim Women's Conference congratulates her successor Sikhamani Ameena Musthapha.