



NETHSETHA

Lions Vision for Sight Hospital



"Give Sight, to See the World"



"Minipura's Heaven for Clear, Calm Vision"



***"Silver dawn upon the golden land,
A jewel of Lanka, bright and grand.
A guiding lamp to every soul,
Forever shine, 'Nethsetha' – Mother whole"***

Nethsetha Eye Hospital, which was established in Ratnapura, bringing pride to the nation, is an institution that has been providing its services at a very high level for nearly 15 years since 2011. Currently, it is embarking on a proud journey, making its name known throughout the village. Nethsetha Hospital provides a great service to the people by finding patients who are unable to perform even their daily tasks due to blindness in both eyes and providing them with free treatment and restoring their eyesight by implanting contact lenses. The very kind staff, together with the doctors, work for the patients, healing them both physically and mentally. What is unique about this hospital is the consistent friendly service it provides, going beyond the care patients receive in a hospital.

The sole aspiration of the founder of Nethsetha Hospital, Mr. Ashoka Z. Gunasekara, and his wife was to provide free vision to tens of thousands of poor people through Nethsetha Hospital, allowing them to see the wonders of this world. The current Chairman, Mr. Lal Manuelge, is currently fulfilling his duties well and is working to provide an increasingly good hospital environment and a noble service to the people. At present, Nethsetha Hospital continues to provide a wide range of advanced services to the public, including the removal of cataracts and implantation of intraocular lenses using the latest medical equipment and modern treatment methods, diagnosis of various eye diseases, and all types of vision tests. It should be noted that this hospital, which has a highly skilled staff and excellent management, is progressing day by day, earning the trust and appreciation of thousands of people.



VISION STATEMENT

"Creation of a better Sri Lanka by providing professional eye care to the vision impaired"

MISSION STATEMENT

" The mission of Nethsetha is to provide total eye-care solutions of highest standards to all sections of the community, through a team of competent, committed and compassionate professionals in a patient friendly environment. In all our undertakings, we will be guided by the underlying philosophy of Nethsetha."

OUR SERVICES

- Cataract Surgery
- Minor Eye Surgery
- Laser Treatment
- Specialist Consultation
- Spectacles
- Pharmacy
- OPD
- GDX, OCT, HVF
- Biometry
- B-Scan
- Retinal Photography



Lion Asoka De Z Gunasekara
Past International Director
Founder - Nethsetha Eye Hospital

MEMORIES OF THE FOUNDER OF "NETHSETHA"



"Nethsetha is an invitation to reach out with the gift of sight to help the sight impaired experience the joy of Living. "The whole purpose of Lionism is to teach people the importance of the brotherhood of man. Unselfishness can be the greatest force for good in any neighborhood or in any country. True brotherhood exists where people live together, work together and break bread together in mutual trust and respect"

A project seeking the lasting effects of the ground work laid to meet the needs of today and for the future of Eye Care in the Region, the "Nethsetha" Lions Vision for Sight Hospital at New town, Ratnapura, is a unique gift from the Government of Finland Co-ordinated by the Lions International Multiple District 107 Finland together with the Lions International Foundation Fund and is the outcome of a request made by me. We are pleased to state that this hospital has the latest screening equipment and Theatres with state-of-the-art technology for conducting surgery, with male and female wards supported by well-trained /qualified medical staff and a team of specialists. The trust has made great strides in eliminating the main cause of avoidable blindness. To continue this enormous task, we need your assistance. You could contribute your share by donating the sum you spend otherwise on celebrations like birthdays, wedding anniversaries, events to remember your loved ones, may be a special day of your organization or any other significant event. Here is the opportunity for you to share our vision. There is no experience better for the heart than reaching out and lifting people up – specially when an individual is given the gift of sight, to see and admire ones surroundings through their own eyes. From darkness to light, the glory of vision for these poor and elderly mothers and fathers as seen on the faces of those who have been fortunate to restore their sight, speaks volumes of the joy and gratitude in their hearts.

May you be blessed for your kind generosity!

MESSAGE FROM THE CURRENT CHAIRMAN



Lion Lal Manuelge – MJF/JP
Chairman
Nethsetha Eye Hospital
Past District Governor
District 306 D7

It is indeed a privilege for me to contribute a message to the journal published by Nethsetha Eye Hospital.

Since its establishment in 2011, the hospital has rendered an exceptional service to the low-income communities across the island, a mission I am truly proud to acknowledge.

The Nethsetha Eye Hospital was founded through the vision, leadership, and dedication of Past International Director Lion Asoka De Z Gunasekara and Past District President Lion Buddeni De Z Gunasekara. At the request of Past International Director Lion Asoka De Z Gunasekara, and under the initiative of Past International Director Lion Erkki Laine, representing District 107 Finland, this hospital became a valuable gift to our Lions District. The project was made possible through the generous financial assistance of the Government of Finland and with 93% funding support from Lions District 107 Finland. I wish to extend my deepest respect and heartfelt gratitude to Past International Director Lion Erkki and the Government of Finland for their generosity.

Today, the hospital continues to function at an exemplary standard. It is particularly gratifying to note that, in July 2025, for the very first time, 62% of cataract surgeries were performed free of charge. I deeply appreciate the dedication and commitment of the hospital staff in achieving this milestone.

I also wish to acknowledge the invaluable support and contribution of the present District Governor of Lion's District 306 D7, Lion Gaya Upasena, whose efforts have greatly strengthened the hospital's continued success.

I am keenly aware that my appointment as Chairman of Nethsetha Eye Hospital by Past International Director Lion Asoka De Z Gunasekara and Past District President Lion Buddeni De Z Gunasekara, was a result of the trust and confidence they placed in me. It is therefore my earnest aspiration to elevate Nethsetha Eye Hospital to even greater



MESSAGE FROM THE NEW DISTRICT GOVERNER

"Building a Better Future Together"

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I extend my heartfelt message to the "Nethsetha Eye Hospital Newsletter".

Nethsetha stands as a beacon of vision and compassion, serving thousands of patients and bringing light to countless lives. This hospital is not only a symbol of our Lions' commitment to service, but also a true partnership of goodwill — built with the generous support of the **Past International Director Erkki Laine, Lions of Finland, the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), and the invaluable contribution of land by the Government of Sri Lanka.** Together, these partnerships made possible a noble dream that continues to serve humanity to this day.

As Lions, our mission has always been "We Serve." Nethsetha is a shining example of how service, when united with compassion and collaboration, can build institutions that endure beyond generations. I salute the Past International Director late Lion Asoka Z De Gunasekara who initiate this project. The present Chairman Past District Governor Lal Manuelge & the dedicated staff, board of Trustee, Lions, and well-wishers who continue to nurture this hospital, ensuring that the gift of sight is restored and preserved for all who seek its care.

Let us continue to strengthen Nethsetha and work together to expand its reach, making a difference in every corner of our community. May this newsletter inspire all Lions and partners to carry forward our vision of "Building a Better Future Together."



Lion Gaya Upasena
PMJF / PMAF / PSLF
District Governor 25/26
Lions District 306 D7

Voices of Our Patients ...



“Everything was done for free and it is almost like a dream”

“I came to get the cataract operation done. Everything was done for free and it is almost like a dream. If we get this done anywhere else it would cost around twenty thousand. Therefore I’m very grateful for the doctors and the staff. May they experience success in everything they do”

- W. A. Dhanapala, 57, Hatton -



“We were treated like family here”

“We were treated like family here. All the doctors, sisters, nurses treated us as if we were their own parents. I’m very thankful for this invaluable service.”

- A. Amarawathi, 64, Kotagala -

“We are very happy that they have built this hospital in this area”

“I brought my mother for an operation. We are very happy that they have built this hospital in this area. If it was in Colombo we would have found it very difficult. I need to thank everyone who has helped in building this hospital.”

-Hemalatha Nakandala, 42, Kalawana-



“This hospital is very clean and you feel like home”

“I brought my father for a check up. We got to know about this hospital from word of mouth because it is very famous in this area due to the admirable service it provides. The most important feature in this hospital is that it is very clean and you feel like home. I’m very happy we have such a place in this area.”

-S.M. Premalal, 38, Godakawela-

“This hospital has a polite and talented staff that treats everyone equally”

“I came today with my husband to get spectacles. I should say that this hospital has a polite and talented staff who treats everyone equally. No matter whether you pay for the operation or get it done for free, you are treated equally. I really admire that quality. ”

-N. A. Ariyawathi, 59, teacher, Ambilipitiya-



“A special thank you should go to Hatton Lions Club that brought us here”

“If the Lions Club was not there I would have gone blind forever. Now I can see the world again and I’m very grateful for the hospital staff. A special thank you should go to Hatton Lions Club that brought us here”

-S. Nallathambi, 75, Thalawakele-

July is
Dry Eye Awareness Month



July is recognized worldwide as **Dry Eye Awareness Month**, a time to highlight one of the most common yet often overlooked eye conditions.

What is Dry Eye?

Dry eye occurs when your eyes do not produce enough quality tears, leading to discomfort and vision problems.

Common Symptoms:

- Burning or stinging
- Redness
- Watery eyes
- Blurry vision
- Feeling like something is in the eye



Who is at Risk?

- People over 50 years
- Women (especially after menopause)
- Those who use digital devices for long hours
- Contact lens users
- People with certain medical conditions (like diabetes, thyroid issues, or autoimmune diseases)

Simple Tips to Protect Your Eyes:

- Take regular breaks from screens (20-20-20 rule)
- Stay hydrated
- Use lubricating eye drops if needed
- Protect eyes from wind, smoke, and dust
- Visit your eye doctor regularly

The matron explained in detail that **seeking timely treatment for dry eye is very important**, noting that various options such as prescription eye drops, advanced therapies, and even minor procedures are available to manage the condition effectively.



"The sister of the operation theater, the ward in charge, and many other nurses participated in this event."



AWARDED THE ISO 9001:2015 QUALITY CERTIFICATION

"We are proudly certified under the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Standard, reflecting our unwavering commitment to excellence, consistency, and continuous improvement in service delivery."



Our Esala Celebrations...



"With hearts united in compassion, the Nethsetha staff proudly hosted a Esala Dansala on July 17th — a heartfelt offering of kindness, unity, and light in celebration of Esala."

SURGERIES



"During the conduct of cataract surgeries, utmost precision and patient safety were maintained in adherence to established ophthalmic protocols."

Free Surgery Statistics Details - 2025

Month	Free Surgery
January	113
February	122
March	152
April	137
May	157
June	167
July	176
Total	1024



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"From darkness to light – Restoring vision, restoring life."

Lions Screening Days (Aug-Dec 2025)

Months	Days
• August	11, 29
• September	08, 30
• October	07, 27
• November	03, 25
• December	08, 30

Editor By: Mrs. A. Pubuduni Athukorala
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