

## 'The Fairmount' – An environment-friendly and socially responsible luxury apartment project

JUST outside the city what was once an isolated village area in Rajagiriya, has been transformed into something truly amazing.

'The Fairmount – Urban Oasis' apartment complex, a 31-storey, slim, elegant building, stands out in the midst of a tropical green zone and catches the eye of any passerby. Comprising 112 three bed-roomed luxury apartments, the construction of this complex was recently completed in an exemplary environment-friendly and socially responsible manner.

"The preservation of the natural ecology surrounding the site of 'The Fairmount' was always an important aspect of our project," said Neluka De Alwis, Director – Fairway Condominiums (Pvt) Ltd., the developer of 'The Fairmount'.

"We also made a conscious effort to uplift the living conditions in the neighbouring community and to create employment opportunities for its youth through this project."

The area where 'The Fairmount' is situated was not a developed one. There were two tanneries located at the site where the building now stands and some of the dwellers

around were illegal occupants of private land. The effluent from the tanneries was discharged to the surrounding wetlands and the area was polluted with foul odours emanating from the tanneries.

Today the picture has totally changed. The roadway leading directly to 'The Fairmount' has been improved beyond recognition for those who remember it as it used to be. What was a narrow road full of potholes a few years back is today a broad elevated carpeted road benefiting not only occupants of 'The Fairmount' but the entire nearby village.

The canals and waterways have been dredged and all pollutants removed. A beautiful stream runs placidly alongside the roadway and around 'The Fairmount'. The stream is kept clean and its banks are voluntarily maintained by 'The Fairmount'.

The illegal dwellings are no more. Helped by 'The Fairmount', the occupants have moved out. In fact, eight low-income families are the lucky recipients of houses built and gifted to them by 'The Fairmount'.

These three bedroom houses have



Fairway Condominiums Director Neluka de Alwis presents the deed to Santana Mariamma and her family as Fairway Condominiums Director Saminda Jayasekera and Fairway Condominiums Project Coordinator Prassana Kumara look on

been built on six-perch blocks and the occupants are heaving a sigh of relief that they have now got permanent dwellings. The deeds of ownership of these houses were recently handed over to the respective recipients.

"We consider ourselves very lucky. To have a place of our own is indeed a big thing," said Santana Mariamma,

after collecting her deed from De Alwis. Her daughter Sulosina agrees that they can now live with dignity.

In addition to the houses that were donated to the needy neighbours, five young men from the village have been fortunate enough to become owners of their very own three-wheelers with the compliments of 'The Fairmount'.

These vehicles were gifted as part of the company's CSR programme to help local youngsters set themselves up in self-employment projects. Gayan Sampath, a youth from the village who is presently working at the apartment complex, stated that in addition to the three-wheelers being donated, many other young men from the

village have been helped by the company to obtain driving licenses and enrol in various training courses (air-conditioning, aluminium fabrication, etc.), which in turn has enabled them to find jobs.

At the construction stage, the villagers were given preference in filling job vacancies at the site. Some of the youth have found employment even after the construction ended. For example, Sudath works in the gym and looks after the swimming pool at 'The Fairmount'.

Incidentally, the developer of 'The Fairmount' is also committed to ensure that the historical significance of the village is maintained. Known as Kotuwegoda, the village is at the periphery of what was once the royal city in the kingdom of Kotte way back in the 15th and 16th centuries.

The developer of 'The Fairmount' has cleverly managed to balance development and modernisation with the preservation of the environment and the neighbourhood in creating this magnificent luxury apartment complex.