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### **My short tenure at SLBC**

I joined SLBC in 1979 as a Superintending Engineer in charge of the National Television Project. I believe many an eyebrow was raised when a senior position was offered to a person who had just returned from overseas. I felt somewhat like an intruder but soon found myself surrounded by a great team of talented people.

The friendly face in the cubicle adjacent to mine was that of Mr Pathmasiri, who was the Superintending Engineer for Medium Wave transmissions. My Director Engineering was late Mr R.E.H. Perera and my immediate supervisor was Mr Rukmin Wijemanne. I parted from the SLBC after the completion of the National Television Project in February 1982 to join the newly formed Srilanka Rupavahni Corporation.

When I joined SLBC there were two unions; Engineers' Union and Technical officers' Union. I was one of the few who openly canvassed for a joint union, much to the disapproval of some white-collar employees.

During my short tenure at SLBC, many interesting issues were dealt with but one particular incident stands out vividly in my memory. It was the day I challenged a Presidential appointee, an Engineering Consultant, to show his academic credentials at a meeting chaired by the late Mr Thevis Guruge, Director General of SLBC & co-competent Authority of GOBU ITN. I was tabling my own credentials and the request seemed fair to me. Since that day this consultant never attended meetings of the TV Advisory board.

It was a memorable period in the history of SLBC as it was not only providing a most wonderful radio service to Sri Lanka but was also in the process of introducing TV to the country. I felt privileged to be part of it.

Thank you for your kind invitation.

I wish SLBC all the very best.

Shanthilal Nanayakkara