

FUNERAL OF THE LATE MR. L. H. METTANANDA

Daily News, 5th November 1967 (with photos from National Archives)

The Cremation of the late Mr. L. H. Mettananda took place yesterday at the Kanatte Cemetery.

A representative gathering, which included the Prime Minister, Dudley Senanayake, was present.

Ven. Moratuwe Sasanaratana Thero administered Pansil and performed the Pansakula rights.

The funeral pyre was lit by Dr. C. Patuwatavitana and Mr. D.S. Patuwatavitana.

Among others present at the funeral were the Minister of Education & Cultural Affairs, Mr. I.M.R.A. Iriyagolla, the Minister of Home Affairs Dr. D. W. Dahanayake, the Minister of Industries Philip Gunawardena and the Acting Leader of the Opposition, Mr. T.B. Illangaratne.

The funeral procession organized by various Buddhist organisations left Ananda College premises (where the body had lain in state) at 3 p.m. and reached the cemetery at 4.30 pm.

Tributes

Funeral orations were delivered by Ven. Madihe Pannaseeha Maha Nayake Thero, Ven. Kalukondayawe Pannasekera Maha Nayake Thero, Dr. G. P. Malalasekera and Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya, President of the All-Ceylon Buddhist Congress.

Dr. Malalasekera said that the late Mr. Mettananda was a great figure, who had inspired patriotic and national feelings among the people. He had rendered tremendous service to education and had worked for the welfare of the country.

Ven. Kalukondayawe Pannasekera Maha Nayake Thero said that the late Mr. Mettananda was an exemplary Buddhist who fought for the cause of Buddhists. The late Mr. Mettananda did not work for personal glory or fame but purely for the protection, advancement and propagation of Buddhist principles and for the restoration of the rights of Buddhists.

Ven. Madihe Pannaseeha Maha Nayake Thero said that the late Mr. Mettananda awakened the Buddhists to the need to fight for their lost rights - not (through) violence but by peaceful means. The late Mr. Mettananda was a patriot, a real Buddhist with principles and a militant in the national revival movement.

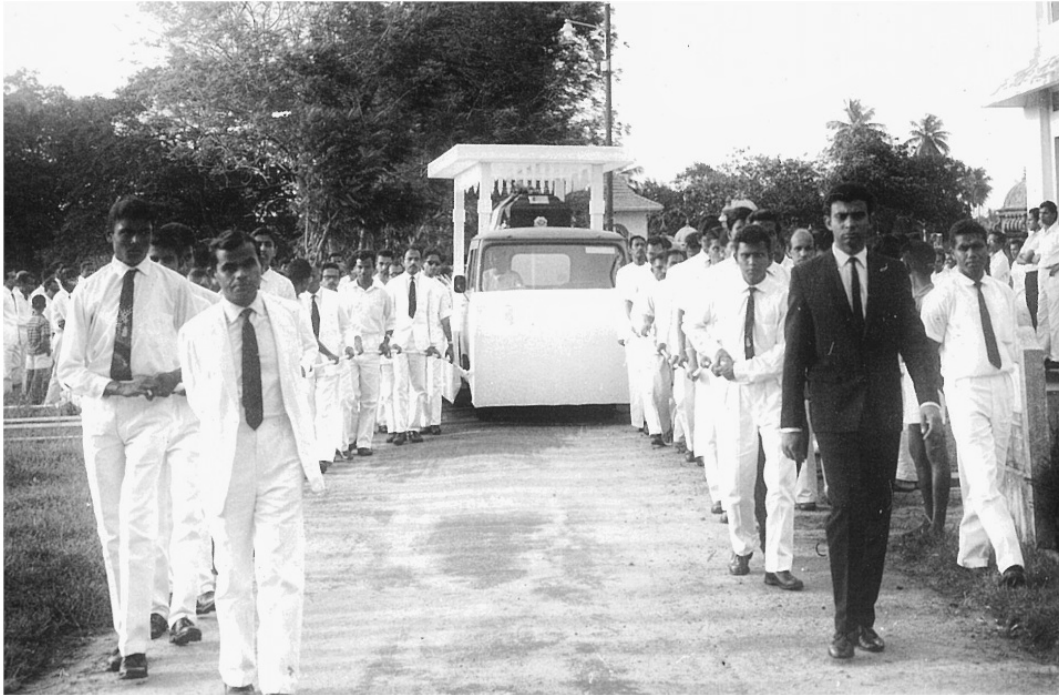
Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya said that he would join with the others in the high tributes paid to the late Buddhist leader.



Mr. L. H. Mettananda lying in state.



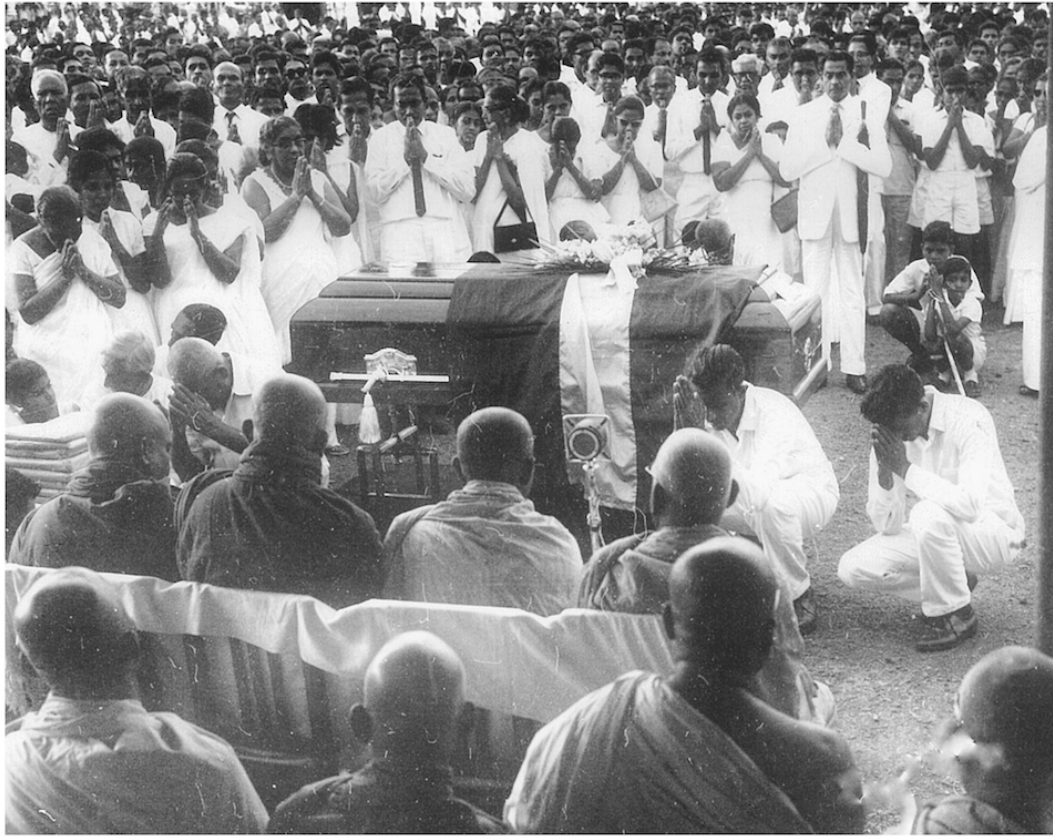
Family, friends and colleagues of Mr. L. H. Mettananda



Funeral procession of Mr. L. H. Mettananda



Funeral procession arrives at the cemetery - with Prime Minister Dudley Senanayake and Minister of Education & Cultural Affairs, Mr. I. M. R. A. Iriyagolle.



People pay their last respects to late Mr. L. H. Mettananda