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GEOTECHNICAL PROBLEMS AND GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERS'
ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOW LYING LANDS

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With the rapid development programmes launched during the past decade, the land requirement for new development activities involved with housing, industries and infrastructures in the City of Colombo has increased by about 11%. Since most of the high lands available within the City had been already

developed, though in a haphazard manner, it has become necessary to develop the low lying lands which until recently were considered as not suitable for development purposes due to high costs involved.

Since one of the major problems in reclamation and development of low lying land is the reduction in area of available flood detention basins, proper attention should be given by the planner on the drainage aspects. Other problems associated with the development of marshy lands include the geotechnical problems owing to weak subsoil conditions.

This paper discusses such geotechnical problems associated with the development of low lying areas and the geotechnical engineers' role in the planning and development process.