Chapter Two
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2.0-Negombo, it's origin and the evolution.

City form-The present city form constitute of two significant parts. First part is planned fortification constructed by the Dutch, and rest of the city consist of organically grown urban form along the main roads which were developed in later eras. The considerable extent of land belonging to the Dutch fort had been urbanized due to the recent developments. The commercial developments, and residential areas seemed to be emmerged within the city limits at a rapid speed.

2.1-Origin of Negombo as a settlement.
The very first settlement originated as a Port city in 110AD. Seafaring communities were the first inhabitants of this settlement. They were belonged to the cast called “Karawa” and they were worshipers of Vishnu and Patthini deities.

In the 12th century at time of King Parakramabahu, they moved from Polonnaruwa to the southwest of the country. In addition to that the settlements grew with the migrants from the migrants from other countries such as India and Maldives. Furthermore their main purpose was the trade. Apart from the above mentioned category, clans accompanied the sacred Bodhi tree, also had become permanent settlers of this settlement.

A special event which took place in the 14th century was the piracy in northern waters. This war was called ‘Makarahatana and was a war between ‘Mukkuwas’ and ‘Kaurawas’. Under the command of Sapumal Kumaraya Because of this land mark incident the three clans were gifted land for this successful campaign.

Grand street.-Kurukulasuriya.
Sea street-Warnakulasuriya.
Peninsula of Duwa-Mihindukulasuriya.

Before the Portuguese arrival Negombo was under Kotte Kingdom. (Illus. 31)
2.2-Colonial period

Negombo, as a port could easily accessible and captured by colonial invaders. The invaders were the Portuguese, the Dutch, and the British respectively.

2.2.1-Portuguese Period

During the 16th century (1515-1568) Negombo became a colony under the Portuguese Empire. The main impact of this arrival was towards the religion and it caused a major socio cultural change. Rulers as well as the commoners rapidly inhabitants converted to Catholicism.
This change in the socio cultural structure reflected within the physical structure among the new constructions numerous amount of churches were prominent features. The Fort built by Portuguese built was a small enclosure and not consistent with necessary component features inherited to the Fort. The location of Negombo was important for trade and as a sanitary station. Negombo was a Cinnamon-producing district, which was highly favored spice at that time. (Illus.32)

Illus.32: Portuguese period map of Negombo

2.2.2-Dutch Period (1658-1798)
Dutch also introduced their social and cultural aspects to the inhabitants during this period. The most interesting feature is the creation of the Dutch Fort, the Dutch town and the Dutch canal. They brought a city character into Negombo. (Illus.33)

**Dutch Fort**
The so-called Dutch fort was the most important and remarkable development during this period. The main purpose was the defense activities.
In addition to that the warehouses were there in the fort to store cinnamon. John Jacob Saar observed (1647-57), that the "Fort built by the Hollanders was a strong place, with four bastions, two facing the sea called Hoorn and Enkhuizen, two towards the land called Delft and Rotterdam with high walls made of sods about 22 feet broad, with each Bastion holding 8 guns. There were two ports, the water port, water port and the land port. Inside there is a castle, protected by two other bastions called Middelburg and Amsterdam." (Illus.34)

Dutch town - This area was located within the fort. Streets were laid out in a typical grid system with avenues and streets. The houses, facing the street grid, were called "town houses." The Dutch town was notably a residential area. (Illus.35)

Illus.33: Map of the Dutch Fort and Dutch town.
Esplanade. -This an open space and an impotent element of the Dutch Fort. (Illus. 36)

Illus. 34; The Dutch Fort

Illus. 35; Dutch street.

Illus. 36; The Esplanade
Chapel-
Dutch built enormous churches with large cruciform buildings, with a central tower, and large doorways. Local architectural traditions were very appropriately incorporated to Dutch building design principles. (Illus. 37)

Dutch Canal - (Hamilton canal).
An important element of the Dutch town planning was who relied on great deal of water transportation. In that sense the canal was it built for the Transporting of goods and foodstuff from Colombo to other areas. In the 1706 was extended the Canal was extended from Negombo to ‘Maha-oya’ and later to ‘Puttalam.’ (Distance from Colombo - Puttalam is 120 miles.)
The second extension of the canal was connecting Kelaniya to Negombo. The canal was built across Nindagam lands of the clans using forced labour.

This became a main reason for the inhabitants to leave the area. Apart from that In the same period this period, due to various reasons some inhabitants moved to Mannampitiya and settled in the same area. People in Mannampitiya intermarried with kindred clans in Eravur, Horuvila, Seruvila, Wahakotte, and few with kinsmen of Negombo. This resulted in change from Catholicism to their original beliefs in Hindu gods. (Illus. 38)
2.2.3-British period (1796-1947)
During the British period the plantation sector was developed quite significantly. With the rise of plantation industry the proper transport system as well as and road network was developed. With the development of the roads and the railway line the city limits extended beyond the Dutch city limits. Many residential areas came up including housing built for the government servants. (Illus. 39a.)
At that time the Dutch fort was not considered as a security zone any more. Improved administration system was needed according to the British governing and the fort area was occupied by administrative functions. Coterminously British high-ranking officials needed buildings and permanent residences in and around the fort area. Houses that British built were mainly for government officers such as government agents, assistant government agents, Judges and other high rank officials. Design and actual location of each of these houses were decided with due consideration to the hierarchical orders of the particular officials who were to be housed in them. Administrative and public buildings within the court were the high court and the Magistrate courts, and the St Stephen Church. (Illus. 39b.) When considering the rest of the town the buildings built during this period were typical to other towns planned by the British.
Illus. 39a; British period city form of Negombo

Illus. 39; St. Stephan Church.

Illus. 40; St Mary's Church
2.3-Post independent period (1948)

After the Independence the political, economical and the social system was changed in the whole country. The new political system brought in new laws and regulations in relation to the administrative system. With this the feudalistic system was ended leaving some of it's social, and architectural remains with the city. New regulation and the laws related to the city planning and land ownership created new path for the development of the city.

Gradually the new democratic political system introduced new social reformations. Among them the most outstanding were the free education system, and free economy. These changes were resulted direct and indirect impacts to the city.

With the open economy which was introduced in 1977 accelerated tourism and many other industries in the city. At the same time the new developments which had come up around the city also caused a considerable impacts to the city. The Katunayaka International Air Port which was located 6 Kilometers away from the administrative center and free trade zone can be considered as the most outstanding among them.

The above mentioned political, social changes which had happened after the independence and the developments interrelated with each other and resulted the present city form of Negombo.

When considering the relationship between political and social changes and the city form this has to be discussed under following aspects.

(i) Fishing industry
(ii) Tourism
(iii) Development of other social and physical infrastructure
(iv) Other developments around the city
Location of MC Area

Illus. 41: Present City Form of Negombo
(i) Fishing Industry

Fishing industry can be considered as one of the main activities in the region. This provides 36% of the employment to its citizens. Indirect employment-created by its allied industrial activities are repair of boats and ice production.

Fishing related activities were spread along covering a large area along the coastal belt. There is a considerable growth can be seen in the technology and the size of the fishing community.

Illus. 42: Fishing gives an identity to Negombo

Illus. 43: Fishing and the conservation area.

Illus. 44: Fishing activity along the beach.
Illus. 45. The activity map during weekdays. Location: Dutch city area of Negombo.

Illus. 46. Activity map in the Dutch town area during weekends.
These fishing settlements are mushrooming around the Dutch Fort. The moat which was an element of the Dutch fort is totally used for fishing related activities. (Illus; 47)

Dry fish is the main fishing related activity in Negombo. At present it is carried out at the area called "Kuda Lellama.". In addition to this there are small anchorages at Porutota Kammalthota, Ethukala and Kudapaduwa.

Illus. 47; Shanty development.

With the fishing industry.

The whole sale and retail market functioning in and around the 'pola' area, which is one of the prominent market area where a large number of people concentrating in the city

(ii) Tourism

The tourism and allied activities are mostly concentrated along the Northern beach. Which can be demarcated as a Strip of approximately Negombo 3Km north to the town center.

According to the statistics 27 approved tourist hotels in Negombo provides 1200 rooms capacity with an average occupancy rate of 54.2%. This rate increases up to 60% during the tourist season.

In 1998, it is estimated 223,643 tourist nights in Negombo and out of which, 98% are foreign tourist nights. Apart from that, there are 16 approved guesthouses consist of room capacity of 200. Even though they were not very satisfactory in condition. The non-approved guesthouses too contributes enormously to the development of tourism in Negombo by means of
inexpensive meals and lodgings

According to the reliable sources tourism alone provides 3217 Direct employment-and 2000 in direct employment through tourism allied activities such as Restaurants, Gem & Jewelry shops, Handy Crafts. Etc.

The tourists are especially interested on fishing activities, and to Negombo's historical importance as well the natural settings of the lagoon and the Mangroves.

(iii) Development of other infrastructure in the city

Many schools scattered in the town areas and other social infrastructure resulted residential suburbs and at the same time they had been created the residential areas developed towards the hinterland.

In addition to the houses belong to high or middle-income people considerable residential population was emerged creating shanties in the city.

Shanties were immersed due to the job opportunities available in the city.

The coastal area, by the sides of the canal and other neglected state owned land were captured by the squatter settlements.

(iv) Other developments around the city.

The close proximity to the International Airport and the Free Trade Zone can be considered as a main source of income to the people live in Negombo. On the other hand for the outsiders who work in these, the Negombo is the dormitory town which provides all the services for them.

After implementing these developments the city growth could be noticed towards Colombo.

The Colombo –Putthalam main road also became another pull factor of the commercial development s.
Illus. 48; Nolli Map indicating public, non public, and open spaces. Location the old Dutch city area.
Illus. 49: Land use pattern.