

Government caught with pants down

The defeat of the attempt made by the UNP till the last moment to alter the final report of the investigation carried out by the Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE) on the financial fraud committed when issuing Central Bank bonds is a major defeat to the government say political analysts.

Political parties charged that two issues including the JVP and of Central Bank bonds in civil organizations had 2015 and 2016 had been

manipulated to give an advantage to Perpetual Treasuries Ltd. linked to Arjun Aloysius, son-in-law of the former Governor of Central Bank Arjun Mahendran. The 'unity' government, due to the controversial nature of the issue, attempted to sweep the issue under the carpet by not handing over investigations to legal sections stating COPE

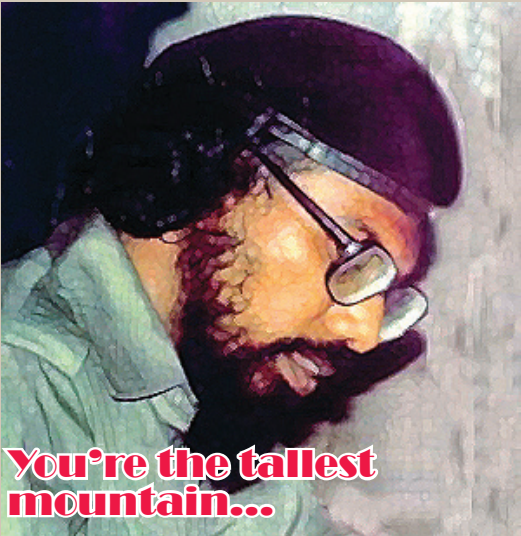
was already handling investigations. Neither did the Central Bank that was under the Prime Minister carry out any investigation as the responsibility of carrying out the investigation had been passed over to COPE.

There were accusations that the Central Bank did not give the necessary assistance for investigations while news was also published that Arjun Mahendran had been appointed an economic consultant to the Prime Minister. The attempt of the government to use

UNP Parliamentarians in COPE to present a separate final report in a bid to save the Governor of Central Bank was another step towards this. However, with the mediation of the Chairman of COPE, JVP Parliamentarian Comrade Sunil Handunneththi, the conspiracy was exposed and the government had to withdraw its attempt to present a separate report.

JVP Leader Comrade Anura Dissanayaka, speaking at a press conference held at the head office of the JVP on 28th October

and reminding that 30 COPE reports had been thrown to the dust bin during Rajapaksa regime said the government, without limiting itself for making speeches on stage against frauds and corruption, should take action to implement recommendations of the COPE report. He emphasized that the JVP was prepared to carry on the struggle until the perpetrators are punished and the money that was lost to the country due to the scam is recovered.



*You're the tallest mountain
That sparkles and unshaken
Among the mountains that dwindle and
dissolve*

*Many attempt to ascend you
Saying you're akin to them
Uttering mere absurdities*

*When you're you
How could an adversary
Outshine you even with his entire mite?*

*Throughout my Motherland
In hamlets and towns
Jak, mahogany, weera and palu thrive
Grasping fortitude you've given 'em!*

*Every new day
new hamlets bathed in your shades
turn their heads to your summit*

*Millions of our brethren
who see only dreams that never realized
Would be reborn
With radiance emitted by you*

*When red flowers of cool November
Bloom and cover your high summit
My Motherland, blushed in your hue,
will win a New World!*

**(On behalf of 27th November Heroes
Commemoration)**



Against VAT at Parliament Roundabout

Stop issuing statements that weaken legal actions & moves against crimes! - JVP

The Political Bureau of the JVP issued a media release demanding the government not to take any measures to weaken the investigations being carried out against those who had been involved in frauds, corruption and other crimes but to intensify such investigations. The press release issued on 13th October states: "A statement made by President Maithripala Sirisena at Foundation Institute yesterday (12th) has been published in all newspapers today (13th) as a lead. We consider the statement indicating suspicion that the CID, FCID and the Commission

to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption act according to a political agenda as a serious one. It seems that the President, in his speech, has challenged the aspirations and the mandate of the 6.2 million people who voted for Mr. Maithripala Sirisena on 8th January, 2015 to bring good governance and democracy against frauds and corruption committed during Rajapaksa regime. If the defeated Rajapaksa clique attempts to create a viewpoint among security sections against the government by wrongly interpreting moves being carried out by institutions that investigate frauds,

corruption and crimes committed during the past, what the government needs to do is to defeat such attempts but not act to weaken or dishearten the institutions that carry out such investigations. The statement by the President questioning whether the Criminal Investigation Department, Financial Crimes Investigation Division and the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption do act according to a political agenda should not be taken lightly. For, he is the head of the government as well as the state. If these institutions are

manipulated according to someone's political agenda the President should reveal it to the country. The whole country knows that despite several ministers who have joined the government have various allegations of frauds against them; no investigations are being carried out against them. It should be made known whether these investigation too do not take place due to political agendas. The President has also mentioned independent commissions. Independent commissions were appointed according to the 19th amendment also with the mediation of the present government. It is

a demand of people's civil organizations and was a main promise given to the people by the government. Even with certain shortcomings manipulating the institutions by a commission is better for democracy than when they are manipulated by an individual. Hence, belittling independent commissions, claiming those who are involved in them do not know to govern, cannot be accepted. Making statements or taking moves to weaken institutions that carry out genuine investigations in connection with frauds, corruption and crimes and thereby weaken such investigations is counter to the mandate. Also, it brings pleasure to those who committed large scale financial frauds and corruption during the previous regime and a boost to their false accusations against institutions that

carry out investigations against them; a move to incapacitate them. Now, certain individuals in the present government too are being accused of bribe taking, frauds and abuse of power. Frightening and weakening institutions that carry out investigations into such frauds, corruption and crime would encourage those who are already engaged in such vice and those who anticipate committing such crime. Hence, we demand the government to stop taking steps to weaken investigations and legal moves that are being carried out against those who defrauded public funds, were involved in financial frauds and other crimes, also hasten investigations that have not yet begun against those who are involved in financial frauds and crimes and to honour mandate of the people."

Rally to Defeat Government's Selling Spree

Comrade Anura Dissanayaka

"This is not a government. People elect a government to use resources in the country with a good management for the development of the people in the country. However, this government is selling and sacrificing the most important resources that belong to the people. As a political party and trade union movements we would begin street struggles against government's policy of selling and sacrificing country's resources. We would build the broadest force to launch the biggest struggle against the attempt to sell Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, oil tanks at Hambantota, the oil tank farm at Trincomalee, the refinery, Colombo Port," said the Leader of the JVP Comrade Anura Dissanayaka at a press conference held at the head office of the JVP at Pelawatta on 3rd October, 2016.

He said, "If bunkering service at Hambantota is privatized the government will lose the returns. We



would not be able to get it back. The East Jetty in Colombo Harbour is to be given to a private company for 35 years. The government will not gain anything for 35 years. If the refinery owned by CPC is privatized the country wouldn't get any profits. These are very important economic centers of our country. Hence, the destruction Maithri – Ranil administration is going to do to the country should be stopped. We, as a political movement and important trade unions in the country, call upon all trade unions, people and journalists to come forward to prevent

the government from selling important and precious centers of the economy of our country."

The President of National Trade Union Center (NTUC) Comrade K.D. Lal Kantha, the General Secretary of All Ceylon Ports General Workers Union Comrade Chandrasiri Mahagama, its Asst. Secretary Comrade D. Niroshan, the President of Ceylon Petroleum General Services Union and Provincial Councillor Comrade Ashoka Ranwala and its Organizing Secretary Comrade Ajith Padmasiri Perera were also present

Government has no..

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amount that has been slashed. Despite those who are employed abroad are called heroes, the allocation for the ministry has been reduced from Rs. 1036 to Rs. 694 million.

A large amount has been slashed in connection with rural agricultural economy. The slashing of allocation for the Ministry of Agriculture is very serious. The highest employment is in the agriculture sector. The reduction in allocation for the Ministry of Agricore for 2017 is Rs. 32,807 million. The allocation for this year was Rs. 54,200 million. It has been reduced to Rs. 21,393 million. The livelihood of more than 10 million is connected with the Ministry of Agriculture. As such, this reduction would have serious consequences. Also, allocations for fisheries, small industries, environment etc. have been slashed. Despite there are various environmental issues such as man – elephant conflict, Rs. 11,662 million has been slashed from the Ministry of Environment that is under the President.

The allocations for ministries that affect the people have been slashed changing the name of the 'open economy' to 'Social Market Economy.' In plain language the government implements its political agenda by pressurizing the masses with severe economic burden. The situation is serious as the government is ignoring

the mandate it received when it came to power. This is revealed in the Appropriation Bill presented. How the government that came to power promising to do away with frauds and corruption and raising the economy destroyed by Rajapaksa regime is acting is clear to the people. The statement made by the President with the intension of protecting fraudsters and the corrupt has terminated the discussion to stop frauds and corruption. Sleeping with thieves has become the sole political agenda of the Ranil – Maithri administration. President's outburst has activated the first innings and playing the second innings by moving within COPE to protect fraudsters exposes the political agenda of the 'yahapalana' government. The Appropriation Bill reveals that the government has no vision or plan to develop the economy of the country. We call upon the masses in this country and the media to reveal that the government has failed to fulfill the mandate it received. As the JVP, we emphasize that there is no other alternative other than changing this administration and taking the country on the path of a new political and economic transformation. We have already commenced rallying people for such a noble task. We invite all to rally around this force.

Does government catch thieves or do thieves take the government for a ride?

The political sector got heated up due to a statement made by President Maithripala Sirisena at Sri Lanka Foundation Institute. With the questioning by the President whether the CID, FCID and the Bribery Commission were acting on a political agenda the investigations and moves that were being carried out regarding large scale financial frauds and crimes have been hampered. The director General of the Bribery Commission resigned. The Rajapaksa clique appreciated President's statement and used it to conceal their robberies while those who plundered state assets during Rajapaksa regime and those who have been given ministerial portfolios and are to be prosecuted admired President's statement and justified it. Meanwhile, those groups that were involved in bringing this 'yahapalana' government to power and those who had trust in it became bewildered and frustrated.

There could be many reasons and facts for the President to challenge the investigations being carried out regarding financial frauds and corruption and the institutions that were involved in such investigations. The President may have thought about the mentality of the security personnel when Rajapaksa clique spread canards that 'war heroes are hunted down' specially when Army intelligence officers are arrested on suspicion of various offences. However, the President, instead of responding to such issues correctly, made a type of a statement similar to making ladders for thieves. What would happen hereafter to the process of 'catching thieves' is unclear. One thing is clear, however. 'Catching thieves' would not be realistic as long as the capitalist system exists and as long as those who started stealing remain as stalwarts of the government. What really happens now is the government doesn't catch thieves but thieves 'catch' the



government. Anyone genuinely interested in catching thieves and protecting 'yahapalanaya' should learn from the incidents that have taken place and pave the real path to catch thieves. They should look back on what had taken place.

When Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa was defeated and Rajapaksa regime came to its end at the presidential election on 8th January, 2015, the most serious charges against it were frauds, corruption, financial frauds and crimes. One of the main tasks the Maithri - Ranil administration that came to power subsequently had to fulfill and was expected of it was to carry out investigations regarding frauds, corruption and crime and punish the perpetrators. However, the government ignored this from the very beginning. Government's involvement in this was sluggish, indecisive and snail-paced. The government allowed investigations on financial crimes due to pressure from the society and agitations carried out by the JVP and several other organizations. However, these investigations were never given ministerial level assistance that was necessary. Not a single minister or an official of the so called

There is another tragedy. It is what happens when the general public becomes blind followers of political parties. They would not be able to see the truth then. This is why the rogues of Rajapaksa clique have been able to play the role of heroes.

'yahapalana' government made any complaint regarding large scale frauds that have been committed in 'Divi Neguma', 'Maga Neguma' and other institutions during the past. What are being investigated at present are complaints lodged by the JVP, Voice Against Corruption (VAC) and several civil organizations and individuals but not any forwarded by the government.

In a capitalist system there is a limit to investigations carried out by capitalist administrations

regarding state assets, defrauding and plundering people's assets. It is a class restriction. Investigations would be swift if the thieving, even if it is a minor one, is by a state employee or an ordinary person. Suspects do not get bail. They do not have the opportunity to get admitted to hospitals. There is no opportunity to brag to the media. They do not get publicity. However, if the suspect is from the capitalist class, especially if he or she had been wielding state power the investigations would be snail-paced; perpetrators get bail in one night; or could get admitted to hospital. There would be publicity and rogues would be treated as heroes. 'Law is equal to all' would become empty words. Despite the President getting excited about 'driving' former Navy commanders to Courts, ordinary folk are not concerned.

On the other hand there is a manner the present government was formed. It is a strange distortion. At the 2015 presidential election the candidate of the camp against Rajapaksa regime was Mr. Maithripala Sirisena. When the alliance was defeated at the election and Mr. Rajapaksa lost his presidency Mr.

Maithripala Sirisena became the President. However, at the general election held in August, 2015 Mr. Maithripala accepted the leadership of the alliance that worked against him and contested the election separately. His rival at the presidential election was given nomination by him. At the election neither the Alliance nor the UNP received enough seats to form a government. Hence, President Maithripala Sirisena got his SLFP join the UNP to form a government. Mahinda clique of the SLFP remained in the opposition while a group of the SLFP officially united with the UNP to form a 'unity' government. SLFP Mahinda clique remained in the opposition while a group from the SLFP joined the government with Mr. Sirisena. They were given ministerial portfolios. They too had engaged in large scale thieving during Rajapaksa regime. In the end the government, instead of catching thieves, had to exist with the thieves to form the government. Now thieves have apprehended the government. Despite the government taking limited moves to 'catch thieves' due to pressure from public opinion, when it comes to catching thieves connected to the government the 'thieves catching' cannot be continued. For, then the government will have to pursue its own members. Also, as soon as the new government was formed the UNP ministers started the process of 'recovering arrears'. Vehicle frauds in the harbour, Central Bank bond scams, coal fraud and tender frauds started emerging. When 'catching thieves' becomes a boomerang, the government has no other alternative but to thwart the process of catching thieves. For, before anything else 'the government must be protected'. This is how thieves are caught under capitalism.

There is one truth that we should understand here. All large scale frauds that were committed during this period are not isolated incidents but were interconnected. Many are connected to a robbery. Some are from the government and some are from the opposition. The difference is negligible for thefts. Even political leaders are

Red Power: Let's begin our conversation from November Heroes. We have heard that November Heroes were genuine people who loved the society and the masses. However, the struggle they carried out with supreme sacrifices is reflected as a terrifying and gloomy incomprehensive exercise. Why is it so?

Comrade Kithulegoda:

When discussing about November Heroes we could see that they sacrificed their lives for several great objectives. They despised social injustice. They held high the freedom of the Motherland and the downtrodden. They had a massive need to overcome the opportunist politics that deceived masses. Their blood started boiling against Indian invaders lead by Rajiv Gandhi and J.R. Jayawardene, the modern day Don Juan. Also, the continuous repression that pursued the downtrodden classes drew them to the path of struggle. All these conditions made November Heroes choose the path of struggle. However, their noble struggle ended in defeat.

In any struggle it is the victor that writes the story of the struggle. The victor would never give any credit to his adversary. They write the story to emphasize their correctness, the heroism of their side and their fair play.

What is written could be blatant lies. However, they are written by the victors and maybe there is none from the other party living to tell their side of the story. Even if there is someone left accidentally, his or her voice would not be strong enough to stifle the victors' voices. Then how could the truth come

A day will come when justice will be meted out to November Heroes

Comrade Jinadasa Kithulegoda
Member of the Central Committee of the JVP

to the society? If the 'independent' media and the writers build in the country a dialogue about what is truth the lies and canards would not be socialized. This is the main reason why the reality regarding November Heroes did not come to the surface of the society. In the media sympathetic to ruling classes November Heroes were never depicted as a group that sacrificed their lives against injustice, iniquity and immorality to win liberation for the Motherland and the people but a group that was against the country and attempted to topple an elected government. As such, the memory of November Heroes, for most of the people, is a terrifying, gloomy and indistinct picture.

This is not particular to the 88/89 struggle only. It is the situation after any struggle in the world. The world was able to know the truth about the Great October Revolution as the Czar family and Kerensky's capitalist government was defeated. If however the Czar and the capitalist administration had won they would have written the history in a different way. If that happened Lenin would have been branded a traitor and it would have been written that the people of Russia were involved in an idiotic exercise. This is the nature of any struggle in the world.

The history

would have been written correctly only if November Heroes had achieved victory. Then only the history would talk about their qualities of equality, justice, patriotism, sacrifice, their immense love for the masses and their unparalleled heroism. However, a day will come when November Heroes will be justified.

Red Power: Those who deserted the struggle for various reasons attempt to discredit the struggle and also to buoy up their roles. How should the masses interpret their roles?

Comrade Kithulegoda:

People come out with various stories not only with regard to the 88/89 struggle but there are also various stories that come up regarding the 1971 struggle. Some say the struggle was correct but the leadership was incorrect. Some others say both the struggle and the leadership were wrong. Certain pseudo revolutionary hypocrites say struggle against capitalist government is correct but the struggle with the leadership of the JVP is wrong. Whatever they say, one thing is very clear. A political party, that had been leveled to the ground on two occasions by wielding the most ferocious terror campaigns the country has gone through in the recent past, has

risen its head again, winning the trust and confidence of the people and is marching forward challenging the capitalist ruling class.

In such an environment anyone who has had any connection with the JVP in the past would not be able to stay silent or inactive regarding social injustice. Despite being unable to do much for the party that was built with their own hands, they should feel boundless joy when they see the party marching forward. This is so with those who were with the movement honestly. They wish well for the JVP. There is another group that thinks they worked hard for the party at a certain time, they would not want to continue but would be

happy to see the party doing well.

Then there is a group that say, "This is how we attacked the police. We captured several police stations and held them for several days. Later we retreated to Sinharaja or Wilpaththu. We were in the jungle for a long period and continued the struggle. We continued the struggle till the end." They also talk about how they struggled against the government during the 88/89 terror period. There are others who say, "Our best struggle was against the Indo - Sri Lanka pact. We took thousands of people to the streets. We did everything to bring victory to CTB strike," and ask, "Now what does the JVP do?"

At times when

the JVP was at the receiving end most of these boosters had their heads hidden. However, the party has won the confidence and respect of the masses as a result of comrades who laboured to save the party even with the risk to their lives, having utmost confidence in the party, confronting all challenges, setting good precedents and often working throughout the day and night giving everything to the party. It has been established that the only political party that is free from frauds, corruption, thefts, thuggery and honestly mediates in issues of the people is the JVP. Majority of the people in the country believe that the only party that sets good examples for the people and specially for the youth is the JVP. Those who are not hypocritical know where the country would be if not for the mediation of the JVP.

It is in such an environment the moves of the certain groups that I have mentioned above could be judged. Today the JVP has achieved a political credibility as well as the light of that glory has brightened the



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BRICS wants a broad global role



The leaders of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, the BRICS member nations, adopted Goa Declaration condemning the military interventions taking place all over the world. This declaration was released at the end of the 8th BRICS Summit held in Panaji, the capital of the Indian state of Goa in India from 15-16 October 2016. India received the chairmanship at the summit. These countries that are among the biggest and developing economies in the world account for over a quarter of the world's land area, more than 53% of the world's population and 30% of the world gross national income. In 2015, BRICS countries accounted for a total nominal GDP of 16.92 trillion, equivalent to 23.1% of world GDP. Its exports amounted, in 2014, US \$ 3.48 trillion. Imports in that same year amounted to US \$ 3.03 trillion and in 2015 it accounted for 19.1% of world's total exports.

What was special at the summit this time was the participation of Michel Temer as the President of Brazil who toppled former President Dilma Rouseff. He is a sympathizer of the USA and manipulates the economy of the country according to neo-liberalist

policy. (The President of Russia held bilateral discussions with all other leaders participating in the summit except with the President of Brazil.)

In its declaration BRICS countries would want to 'advance their common goals of peace, development, democracy and prosperity' and condemn the military interventions that take place all over the world. They reiterated their 'common vision of ongoing profound shifts in the world as it transitions to a more just, democratic, and multi-polar international order based on the central role of the United Nations, and respect for international law.' They also reaffirmed 'the need for strengthening coordination of efforts on global issues and practical cooperation in the spirit of solidarity, mutual understanding and trust' and underlined 'the importance of collective efforts in solving international problems, and for peaceful settlement of disputes through political and diplomatic means.'

On Syria, the declaration calls upon all parties involved to work for a comprehensive and peaceful resolution of the conflict taking into account the legitimate aspirations of the people

of Syria, through inclusive national dialogue and a Syrian-led political process based on Geneva Communiqué of 30 June 2012 and in pursuance of the UN Security Council Resolution 2254 and 2268 for their full implementation.

They also reaffirmed 'the need for a comprehensive reform of the UN, including its Security Council, with a view to making it more representative, effective and efficient, and to increase the representation of the developing countries so that it can adequately respond to global challenges.' They expressed their gratitude to UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon for his contributions to the United Nations in the past ten years and congratulated Mr. António Guterres, on his appointment as the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The declaration has approved the first set of loans by the New Development Bank (NDB), particularly in the renewable energy projects in BRICS countries. They express satisfaction with NDB's issuance of the first set of green bonds in RMB and states that the operation of BRICS Contingent Reserve

Arrangements (CRA) has strengthened the global financial safety net. It called for the advanced European economies to meet their commitment to cede two chairs on the Executive Board of the IMF and states IMF should be reformed to strengthen the voice and representation of the poorest members of the IMF.

The declaration reaffirmed BRICS commitment to the FATF International Standards on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation and called for swift, effective and universal implementation of FATF Consolidated Strategy on Combating Terrorist Financing, including effective implementation of its operational plan. They sought to intensify cooperation in FATF and FATF-style regional bodies (FSRBs).

The 9th BRICS summit will be held in China in 2017.

BRICS active with the mediation of China and Russia despite being an economic get-together plays an important role in the global political balancing act. Specially, it represents a multi-polar international order against US and European Union lead alliance.

A historical vote for Cuba

Cuba scored its biggest victory yet as the UN General Assembly voted 191-0 to adopt the resolution condemning the U.S. embargo against Cuba. United States and Israel did not vote. The US said it did not vote because "the text falls short of reflecting the significant steps that have been taken and the spirit of engagement President Barack Obama has championed." Israel has consistently followed its ally on the issue.

Starving UK

Malnutrition is a major public health issue costing the NHS in excess of £13 billion per year. There are approximately 3 million people in the UK who are malnourished or at risk of malnutrition; 93% of these are thought to be living in their own homes; 5% in care homes and just 2% in hospital. They are reports from British Media.

Cases of malnutrition and other "Victorian" diseases are soaring in England, in what campaigners said was a result of cuts to social services and rising food poverty. During the last decade food prices have increased by 12% in the UK while income has fallen by 7%. Statistics show

Around one in three people admitted to hospital or care homes in the UK are found to be malnourished or at risk of malnourishment.

Malnutrition is caused by having an inadequate diet or a problem absorbing nutrients from food.

According to many reports there is a significant increase in the number of malnourished patients turning up for treatment and care. There are warnings that parents are going without food so their children do not go hungry. Certain hospitals in the UK have set up permanent food banks to get food for the needy.

Prof Simon Capewell, Vice-President for policy for the UK Faculty of Public Health and a professor of clinical epidemiology at Liverpool University states due to malnutrition Victorian diseases such as scurvy, scarlet fever, cholera and whooping cough have increased since 2010 in the UK considered as the 5th richest country in the world.

A rise in global temperature

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) states the highest concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere since man started monitoring his surroundings reached the symbolic and significant milestone of 400 parts per million for the first time in 2015.

The main factor of global temperature increase is carbon dioxide (CO2). Due to the increase in global temperature a number of irreversible weather changes take place. What is more serious is once CO2 increases it takes thousands of years for it to come down. According to WMO CO2 level in the atmosphere would surge again to new records in 2016 as a result of a very powerful El Niño condition. As such the only solution for this is minimize emission of CO2 to the atmosphere and stop deforestation. Earlier at certain places in the world the CO2 400 parts per million, this is the first time it changed at a global scale. Before industrialization, which means before capitalism engulfed the world, the scale was 278.

A part of CO2 in the atmosphere is absorbed by oceans and another part is absorbed by plants in photo-synthesis. CO2 is mainly released to atmosphere from the combustion of fossil fuels.

"Sleeping with thieves has become the sole political agenda of the Ranil – Maithri administration. President's outburst has activated the first innings and the second innings is played by manipulating within COPE to protect fraudsters. This exposes the political agenda of the 'yahapalana' government. The Appropriation Bill reveals that the government has no vision or plan to develop the economy of the country," states the National Organizer of the JVP Comrade Bimal Rathnayaka.

He said this at a conference held at the head office of the JVP on 23rd October, 2016 to draw the attention of the people to the

higher taxes from the affluent and to tax less from the low income earners.

There have been years recently when a complete budget was not presented. An example is 2010. In a post war environment Rajapaksa regime allocated monies using an interim budget. However, a budget was presented in 2016 but such a budget was never presented in the history of this country. The presented budget was officially amended thrice. However, nothing was implemented relevant to the budget. The statistics regarding the one million jobs cannot be found anywhere. The Chief Accountants in Ministries are not aware of economic matters of this

limited to presenting of 300 deeds only.

It is stated that the economic growth in the first 6 months of this year was 3.9%. What is notable is the economic growth during the second quarter had come down to 2.6%. When the government came to power it was said that the economic growth would be raised to 6% through a broad economic plan. However, the lowest economic growth for the recent history was observed in the second quarter decreasing the economic growth of the service sector to 4.9%. The economic growth of all sectors has come down. Also, the prices of essential consumer goods are going up

regime has taken Rs.127,000 million internationally and Rs.432,000 million locally. The promises of job generation, economic growth and reducing COL given to the masses have not been fulfilled.

The biggest lie in the previous budget in 2016 was about taxes. The Minister of Finance said the taxes heaped on the general public by Rajapaksa regime would be brought down from 80% to 40% and the direct taxes would be increased from 20% to 60% to levy higher taxes from higher income earners. What has happened today is that the indirect taxes heaped on the ordinary people have been increased

Let's have some idea regarding the Appropriation Bill related to the budget 2017 against this background. Despite presenting the Appropriation Bill, we all know there would be changes from time to time. Throughout the past monies allocated from the Appropriation Bill were changed during the year. It is merely a list of numbers presented in Parliament and not anything to do with the real budget. Even under such circumstances we have a basic explanation. Compared to last year the allocation for the President has been increased by Rs. 3060 million. Last year allocation for the President was Rs. 2391 million. This year it has

affect people have been slashed. The allocation for the Ministry of Health for this year is Rs. 174,000 million. This has been brought down to Rs. 160,000 million slashing Rs.13,106 million. It is a reduction of nearly 10%.

The allocation for the Ministry of Education is significant. Last year the Minister of Finance carrying out a numbers game added the value of the school buildings constructed from Kannangara era as expenditure for this year. Due to the opposition the move received, Rs.121 billion was reduced and amended it as Rs.46 billion for this year. This year only Rs.76 billion has been allocated. If another Rs.75 billion is not added from the budget the allocation for Education would be a massive reduction.

This government has a mandate for allocating money for education. It was stated they would move towards allocating 6% of the GDP for education. Despite the government making statements that 6% would be allocated, in the budget it has been reduced to 2.6% of GDP. Also, despite Rs. 163 billion has been allocated for the Ministry of Highways and Higher Education, once the money spent for highways is deducted the money left for higher education would be a small amount. The allocation for the UGC, which is directly connected to universities, has been reduced from Rs. 44,923 million to Rs.38,854 million. The allocation for the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs for this year was Rs. 9765 million. This has been reduced to Rs.2694 million for 2017. The reduction is about Rs.7,000 million. We suspect that the allowance given to pregnant mothers and for welfare could be the

Government has no Vision or Plan to Develop Country

Comrade Bimal Rathnayaka

response of the JVP to the Appropriation Bill for 2017 presented to Parliament on the 20th. Member of the Central Committee Comrade Lakshman Nipunarachchi was also present.

Comrade Bimal Rathnayaka said, "The budget presented for 2016 was said to have been based on several fundamental items related to the economy. The five economic prospects the government said they would consider were one million jobs, raising the economy of the people, developing rural economy, creating a broad middle class and giving ownership to lands presently occupied by rural and estate communities. As a tax policy it was stated that indirect taxes levied from the masses would be reduced to 40% and direct taxes would be increased to 60%. The promise was to levy



year. Definite statistics regarding job generation could be obtained from the new members who join the EPF. It is proved that 100,000 jobs have not been given this year. Raising the economy of the people, developing rural economy, creating a broad middle class and giving ownership to lands and other aspirations of the masses have not been fulfilled. Giving lands to the estate community has been

rapidly. Raw rice that was at Rs. 68 a kilo has increased to Rs.75. When this government came to power it criticized debt taking of Rajapaksa regime. However, during the first 6 months of this government the debt burden has become heavier. During the first 6 months the government has taken loans to the tune of Rs. 559,000 million. This 'yahapalana' government that criticized Rajapaksa

from 80% to 85% and the direct tax levied for the rich has been brought down from 20% to 15%. This situation is due to the reduction by the Rajapaksa regime the direct tax enacted in 2013 from profits of companies from 35% to 28%. This was reduced to 17% from the last budget. As such, this government reduced the tax for the rich by 11% and increased the tax levied from the masses.

been increased to Rs. 5451 million. It's roughly an increase of 350%. Last year the Prime Minister's allocation was Rs.486 million. This year it has been increased to Rs. 1254 million. The allocation for the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs that come under the Prime Minister has been increased by Rs. 350 million.

The biggest reduction in the appropriation document has been for sectors related to local economy. This reduction is in a situation where a large amount of money has been allocated for defence despite the country is not involved in a war. Despite allocation for defense has been reduced by Rs. 18,000 million, the largest amount – Rs. 284,000 million has been allocated for defense while monies needed for essential sectors that

Broad Front...

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past of the JVP that had been covered with shawls of darkness. In such a situation the media, for its publicity advantage, need past activists of the JVP. They go searching for them, get certain information from them and write stories full of exaggerations. Certain activists who give information too make cock and bull stories. According to them they are among the only few activists who have been left to tell the stories. Also those who betrayed the party at the 'Criminal Justice Commission come out with stories of their heroics. All this is to grab a portion of the credibility the JVP has achieved in the society.

There are many who stay silent due to personal difficulties but are genuinely overjoyed to see the party marching forward with successes. There are many who wish well for the party. They are comrades with an honest conscience.

Red Power: According to you there are many in this society who are

following the forward march of the JVP. What message would you, as someone who has had the experience of being with the JVP during a very long chapter of the party, give them?

Comrade Kithulegoda:

It is about them that I mentioned earlier. Everyone in our party may not be able to work as 'full timers' continuously until their deaths. There is a popular example Comrade Rohana Wijeweera had used. He said, "All those who get into the Colombo – Katharagama bus from Colombo may not go all the way to Katharagama. There may be some who alight in Galle and some others may get in from Galle. Similarly some will get down at Matara and others may get in. there may be people getting down at Hambantota too. Only a few who got in from Colombo would travel up to Katharagama. However, the bus will be full when it reaches Katharagama." This is really what happens.

Due to certain issues that cannot be ignored certain activists in the party who were very active initially would not be able to be as active in the party as before. This could be due to serious issues in their families or due to health issues. However, if they do not betray the party or the class they would be considered as the members of the party. Even if they become inactive due to personal reasons they could always fulfill an active role for the party when and if the party needs their services.

If they had gone astray due to their own mistakes they could always carry out a self criticism and come back to the party. Making mistakes is natural. Knowing and accepting that a mistake has been made and correcting such mistakes are good qualities. The party is always open for such comrades. There are many such experiences in the local and international left movement. There are many such experiences in our party as well. Experiences of honest party cadres who had

distanced themselves due to various personal issues would not be rejected by the party. Even if they cannot engage in active politics their support and wishes would be an encouragement, a boost for the present activists and cadres. Their encouragement, love, compassion would be appreciated as it was then.

Red Power: People who had experienced the administration of two conventional political parties are now seeing how the country is ruled by the alliance of the two parties. The people who are realizing that the path being taken will not be auspicious to the country and the society have been told by the JVP to get ready for an alternative path by 2020. Could you elaborate on this?

Comrade Kithulegoda:

Yes, the two parties that ruled the countries alternatively for 68

years have now got together to drag the country towards a precipice. The people have perceived this situation. If there is a group that has still not understood this, they too would realize the truth soon.

At the elections held in the past we never asked for power. People would never have believed that we would get power if we asked for it when two established political parties contest each other. Every time the governments are elected by the floating voters. Their nature is the dislike to be defeated. As they want to make their vote a winning vote, they always vote for the party that has the possibility of winning. At the last election the people never expected the JVP to get power to rule the country. The JVP too asked only for a strong representation to expose theft, fraud and corruption and to stop them. The floating voter wants to vote for a party that asks for ruling power and make his vote a winning one. As such, the votes cast for

the party decreased.

However, we say today that the two parties that ruled the country separately dragged the country towards the precipice and now both have got together to hasten the journey to the precipice. It is only the JVP that has a programme, the ability and the skill to build the country. Hence, we ask the people to give ruling power in 2020 to a movement lead by the JVP. For this we hope to form grassroots level organizations and incorporate them with organizations of farmers, workers, fishermen, estate workers, tea small holders, intellectuals, professionals, artistes, civil organizations, all middle class forces and form a broad mass organization. We would achieve this goal after apprising the whole society. We believe our move would fill the vacuum, the gap that exists in our society. We ask the voters in this country to join the broad front and contribute to take the country towards the correct path.

Does government

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connected to these incidents. There are officials behind the scenes. There are those who maintain themselves with billions of black money. These black money holders buy everything including politicians and the law. Then catching thieves is not easy. Avant Garde transaction and the Central Bank bond scam are good examples.

In Avant Garde fraud the amount of black money involved and the number of people who had been bought by the company cannot be fathomed. The investigations regarding the ship belonging to Avant Garde apprehended in Galle were disrupted by a UNP Minister for Galle District. Minister Marapana had to resign due to the attempt he made to defend Avant Garde in Parliament. The Minister of Justice (UNP) took a great effort to protect Avant Garde. Even the law was mum.

Former Navy commanders too had been bought. It confirmed that stolen black money could shake governments. All these indicate that in a capitalist administration frauds and corruption are diseases like cancers that spread in all directions and would not be cured. They are so complex that it would not be easy to identify them.

There is another tragedy. It is what happens when the general public becomes blind followers of political parties. They would not be able to see the truth then. This is why the rogues of Rajapaksa clique have been able to play the role of heroes. The clamour made by Rajapaksas is accepted without any arguments. They never think how Rajapaksas came to possess certain assets that are now being discovered but how they came to Rajapaksas possession

cannot be explained. The Court recently ordered to auction the 16 acre land and the mansion owned by former Minister Basil Rajapaksa as he rejected his ownership to the asset. The government did a strange thing here. It allowed Basil Rajapaksa, in whose name the asset is registered, to go free merely for saying he didn't own it. Earlier too two properties belonging to Basil Rajapaksa were taken over as he said he didn't own them. What made Basil Rajapaksa reject ownership of lands and three houses worth millions? Because he couldn't show how he earned the money he spent to buy the assets. Because he bought the assets from money he had earned in illegal ways. However, despite all these crimes, he attempts to be a hero before the media; attempt to form new political parties. There are still more people who

believe that Rajapaksas never stole but all these investigations and revelations are political revenge. This is the real tragedy.

Capitalism has stolen not only public property. It has robbed the free judgment of the masses. In capitalism it is not only public assets that have been plundered and wasted. People's thoughts too have been corrupted. In such a society there are limitations in preventing frauds, corruption and crimes when the country is ruled by a capitalist administration. This is the truth.

Investigations should be carried out regarding large scale frauds, corruption, waste, financial frauds and crimes that had been committed throughout the past and are being committed now. All perpetrators should be punished without considering their positions. This is the wish of a majority of the

people in the country. However, it is evident that this could never be fulfilled by the present administration. Specially, the civil organizations that believed the 'unity' government would bring 'good governance' to the country have already realized this truth. It is true that all should mediate to prevent the investigations being carried out now being weakened. However, thinking that expected results could be achieved by a capitalist administration is not wise. Hence, an administration that would truly eradicate frauds, corruption and crime and punish all perpetrators should be created. It could never be done by changing political parties. It needs a system change. Rallying forces for such a change is the responsibility of those who wish for genuine 'good governance' and democracy.

The new government and the old path

According to the belief of the general public and what the government states the incumbent government is a new government. When considering that it came to power at the general election held in August last year it can be called a 'new' government. However, when its policies and programmes are considered it is a government that treads on the same old path and follows the same old practices. This ancientness could be observed in its appropriation bill for the next year's budget and the confusion it created in the Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE).

There is a saying that 'when deeds speak, words are nothing.' This is true regarding this government. The type of the government could be ascertained not from speeches made by its leaders or their promises but from what they do. Before coming to power the leaders of the government promised people a change. They bragged they were experts in economic management and would develop the economy to give relief to the masses. They told daring stories of how they would catch thieves and stop thieving and plunder of people's assets. However, in practice they have proved and are proving they are not different from the previous rulers.

The appropriation bill for budget 2017 was presented to Parliament on 20th October. This too indicates the government is treading along the same old path. The policy of the government, like all other previous governments did, is to grab from the people and serve themselves up aplenty.

Funds allocated in the 2017 budget for education and health sectors that have direct impact on the people are far less than the allocations for the same sectors this year. When allocations for people's services have been severely slashed, the allocations for the President and the Prime Minister have been largely increased when compared with the allocations for this year. Compared to this year the allocation for the President has been increased by Rs. 3060 million. This year allocation for the President was Rs. 2391 million. For 2017 it has been increased to Rs. 5451 million. It's roughly an increase of 350%. This year the Prime Minister's allocation was Rs. 486 million. Next year it has been increased to Rs. 1254 million. The allocation for the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs that come under the Prime Minister has been increased by Rs. 350 million. This is how those with the spoon serve themselves aplenty.

The government that stated there was a financial crisis and country's debt has increased followed a policy of burdening the masses with taxes to increase its income. This is why VAT was increased to 15%. Funds that are collected by levying unfair taxes on the masses were not utilized for the services of the people such as education and health but for expenditure of the President and the Prime Minister. This is not at all justifiable.

What does the government that burdens the masses with the economy that is in crisis, also demands the masses to pay exorbitant taxes and threatens to take legal action if the taxes are not paid do on the other hand? They are competing with each other to protect thieves and fraudsters that plundered billions of public money. A good example is the attempt of UNP group of Parliamentarians in the COPE to create a crisis in the COPE to save Arjun Mahendran from being charged of the bond scam.

It is the masses who have to bear the burden of earning the funds necessary for bosom-friends of the government to rob and for the rulers to gobble up for their wasteful spending. It is the masses who bear the tax burden. However, the services for the masses are being slashed. This is what has been repeated for the past 68 years. What does it confirm? It confirms that the 'new' government too waddles along the same old path.

What is the responsibility of the masses in such an environment? It is not to form a government to replace the old one or to find new faces instead of the old ones. They should get ready to move along a new path instead of treading along the old path. They should rally on behalf of a new people friendly administration. This is the lesson history teaches us.



Bidding Good Bye to Ambassador of Cuba



Comrade Bimal Rathnayaka at Solidarity with Palestine campaign



Little artists at 'Aluth Wessa' cultural festival at Kalutara



'Che Day' celebrated in Trincomalee



On behalf of World Youth & Students' Festival