

Govt. protects fraudsters from both sides

The end of the Ranil – Maithri administration would be definite if it fails to carry out investigations regarding the Central Bank bond scam, punish the perpetrators and recover the stolen money say political analysts.

When the 'joint' of people's opposition family bandism, government came to that erupted against slogans such as anti-power as a consequence the corrupt Rajapaksa corruption, transparency,

accountability, good governance came to the fore. However, when acting regarding the bond scam all these promises were forgotten. As a result of the bond scam the immediate loss for

the government that has been calculated is Rs.1640 million but the total loss to the government would be over Rs. 128540 million in the long run. Also, the effect on the economy of

the country due to the increase in bank interest rates, the Rs.150000 million loss to the EPF due to buying from secondary market should be taken very seriously.

Page 07 >>>



Stop selling economically sensitive centers

Comrade Anura Dissanayaka



Comrade Anura Dissanayaka complained that Ranil Wickremesinghe's Economic development Committee has taken a decision to sell the East terminal of Colombo Harbour that was developed at a cost of Rs. 10800 million and said a decision has been taken to launch a massive agitation campaign connected with the port issue on 1st February with the participation of trade unions in the port and with the collaboration of other trade unions.

He said this speaking at a press conference held at the head office of the JVP on the 23rd. The

Member of the Central Committee of the JVP Comrade Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa MP also was present.

Speaking further Comrade Anura Dissanayaka said, "It is the inefficiency and wrong procedures of the government that has made the Port bear this burden. The loss incurred by Hambanthota Harbour for 2015 only is Rs. 37,000 million. There is no development strategy for this harbour. The government disowned several terminals. It operates only the East terminal. Expenditure of all harbours is borne from the income of the Colombo Harbour.

Ranil Wickremesinghe is preparing to sell the most important portion of Sri Lanka's economy to companies. During Chandrika's time one terminal was given with 49% to the government and 51% to the company. With 49% ownership the government could not mediate in its administration. As such, the government with 15% would not be able to get even dividends. Selling people's assets, which are like wish-conferring cows, should be halted. As a political party the JVP is prepared to do so. We ask journalists to use their pens against this act. This sordid act of the 'joint' government should be stopped. We ask Arjuna Ranatunga, the Minister of Ports not to be the most disgraceful minister of ports by getting involved in this selling process. We ask him not to lose his glory of being the cricket captain of the World Cup winning team by getting involved in selling the port.

We would take

measures with the participation of the trade union movement and the general public to commence struggle action against the 'selling process' of the government. We have already decided to launch a massive agitation campaign connected with the port on 1st February with the participation of trade unions in the port and with the collaboration of other trade unions. We would mediate in this task as a political party and the people should rally to halt the destructive move of the government. We would commence awareness programmes, black band campaigns, agitations. The government has speeded up its selling process of people's assets. Hence, we too should speed up our struggle campaigns against such moves. We invite the general public to join the struggle against government's selling process."

Yahapalanaya bared itself at government's 2nd anniversary

Comrade Vijitha Herath
Information Secretary



By attacking people at Hambanthota when it marks the second year of its existence the government revealed its treacherousness," says the Information Secretary of the JVP Comrade Vijitha Herath.

He said this speaking at a press conference held at the head office of the JVP on the 8th.

"A clique that is politically bankrupt is attempting to betray the struggle. This clique is trying to use the people who are struggling for their genuine grievances for their political agenda. They, who arbitrarily grabbed lands of Hambanthota people, are now trying to say they

did not do such a thing. They intervene to dilute the struggle. They try to repress the struggle. The government uses their moves to suppress the genuine struggle of the people. Hence, we would not allow bankrupt cliques to dilute the struggle. It is not 'good governance' that the government is displaying when it passes two years of its term but moves that prove 'yahapalanaya' is a myth. By attacking people the government has exposed its treacherousness," said Comrade Vijitha Herath.

The Member of the Southern Provincial Council Comrade Sisira Wahalathanthri also spoke.

People have to decide whether they remain in the stinking pit or coming out of it

Comrade Tilvin Silva
General Secretary of the JVP

Today, our country is confronted with severe social, economic, political, cultural, educational, health as well as environmental issues. Some time back such issues existed for the downtrodden masses only. However, today, all others other than the few who owns administrative power who plunder people's assets and resources have become prey to the crises. All including students, youths, women, fishing folk, farmers, business community, industrialists have become prey to these crises.

The production economy

of the country has completely broken down and avenues of other beneficial economic avenues are gradually breaking down. As such, all sectors such as arts and culture as well as mass media are in crisis. Education and health have become a massive burden for the masses. Day by day the environment is speedily getting destroyed and the religion too has become a prey to the crisis. No sector has been spared by the crises the country is confronted with.

The existing capitalist socio-economic system has no solution for this crisis. The class that



ruled the country for the last 68 years has dragged the country and the people to this precipice. Today, the whole country has been dumped in this stinking pit. The people will have to decide whether they continue to whirl in the dirty pit where they have been dumped or come out of it. Bringing another capitalist government into power would make the pit deeper and make it

difficult to come out of it. A gang calling themselves 'civil society' is attempting to keep the people in the pit forever. Instead of helping the people to come out of the stinking pit they are widening it and making it

difficult for the people to come out of it. They try to prevent people coming out of the pit. We say the people need not stay in the pit to suffer any longer. We have only one solution. We should array new forces to salvage the country. A strong mass organization should be built to change and develop the country. For, this system cannot

be repaired or patched up.

What we need is a country that nurtures life instead of death, happiness instead of sorrow and that consists of determined people who aspire for unity between Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims, Burghers and Malays. The policies to build such a country are with the politics that changes the capitalist society and builds a new society. It is the JVP that could take such a political leadership as it has a clear vision of the future of this country and has dedication for such a task. No other party or organization has the capability of achieving this. A people's force should be built under the leadership of the JVP," said Comrade Tilvin Silva.

Has the crisis reached the top?

“The inability of the ruling class to lie and rule according to the old order which is the crisis that occurs at the top and on the other the anger of the downtrodden masses that are unable to live according to earlier means which is the crisis at the bottom are the subjective conditions necessary for a social revolution.”

This is how Comrade Rohana Wijeweera in his book ‘We may be killed but our voice will never die’ had written regarding subjective conditions necessary for a social transformation.

It states the capitalist crisis that affects the downtrodden masses alone is not adequate for a social transformation but the capitalist crisis should reflect through the capitalist class as well. It is true that no revolutionary conditions exist in Sri Lanka at present. However, it is difficult to deny that conditions are maturing and aligning towards such a state. Specially, the most acute crisis confronted by the ruling class in Sri Lanka at present is creating conditions in which the ruling class cannot continue to keep power in their hands. This is why the forces that expect a social change should understand the extent of the crisis confronted by the ruling class.

Currently, capitalism in Sri Lanka is confronted with a gigantic financial crisis. This crisis has engulfed all sectors. Nothing has escaped its clasp. This will develop until the downtrodden masses; the general public demands a social change. Meanwhile, the capitalist crisis reflects through the capitalist class as well and is driving them into further crisis. This is when we feel the country is moving towards anarchy.

What exists in Sri Lanka



is a ‘joint’ government. This is not a coalition formed by small parties joining a main party as had been happening in the past but for the first time in the history of politics in Sri Lanka two major capitalist parties viz SLFP and UNP getting together to form a ‘joint’ government. Why was it necessary to form a UNP-SLFP ‘joint’ government? It is not to ‘unite to develop the country’ or ‘unite to develop the country instead of being divided’. They had to get together as the people did not give both capitalist parties enough power to form a government of their own. As such, the ‘joint’ government was not formed with the ‘strength of unity’ but one that was set up due to the ‘need for power’. Despite the two parties agreeing on certain matters to partake in privileges, they contradict themselves in many matters. They criticize each other. While being together in the ‘joint’

Government, they act separately to increase each other’s power and attempt to find an opportunity to form an administration of their own. As a result of this contradiction the government is getting weaker and weaker.

This government is a

weak administration that lacks people’s power. This government was not created by people rallying around a capitalist party but was formed as an outcome of the majority of the people in the country deciding to chase away the Rajapaksa regime. As a result we do not come across a large mass of people that would come forward to protect the government or talk on behalf of the government. As it does not have the power of the people and also due to the contradiction that exists between the two parties the government is either unable to implement the decisions that have been taken or it has to take a step back. A people’s agitation could, at least temporarily, reverse some moves of the government. This situation did not exist during the past JR, Premadasa, Chandrika or Mahinda administrations.

We saw how the bill to create a ‘super’ minister was defeated in Provincial Councils. It was because in spite of UNP-SLFP forming a ‘joint’ government, the provincial councils are ruled by the SLFP. This shows that the government is weak and it has no control over all the institutions. The government

is unable to hold the local government elections due to this contradiction. The government had to draw back the attempt to sell lands in Hambanthota to a Chinese company due to the opposition of the people. Also, when the Ministry of Finance increased the price of lottery tickets to Rs.30 the lottery sellers opposed the move and the President interfered to bring down the price again to Rs.20. There are many such examples. All this shows that the ruling class doesn’t have strength to ignore the people and completely crush people’s resistance.

Just as the government has been weakened the UNP and the SLFP, the two capitalist political parties in the country, too have been weakened. The UNP has not been able to build its power at grassroots level. It has only half power in the government. It’s like a paralyzed patient. As it has not been able to hold local government elections (due to the crisis) they have failed to build power at grassroots level. On the other hand the UNP also suffers from a leadership crisis. Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, the leader of the UNP at present, is not a leader with a personality

to attract the general public. For some he looks a comical figure. On the other hand Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe is not the spiritual leader of the members of the UNP. The attempt by party members to remove Mr. Wickremesinghe from the leadership continued until the announcement of the presidential election in 2015. As such, the UNP, just like the government, is at a very disadvantageous state. It has no mass attraction. Thinking that the UNP that could not get power to form a government of its own when Rajapaksa regime was toppled would come to power in a few years time when it has become unpopular due to various anti-people’s moves and the opposition that will grow against it is only a myth. There is no such possibility.

On the other hand the SLFP has splintered and weakened. The two factions are with the incumbent president and the retired president. Despite some trying to unite Maithri and Mahinda factions to grab power, in reality there is an acute contradiction between the two factions. The two factions criticize each other. As one faction is with the government and the other is in the opposition the contradiction between the two factions escalate. The division will frustrate the party member. If Mahinda lost the election at a time when the party was not divided and if at the general election both Mahinda and Maithri could not win despite both being in the same side, the party that is divided now would never win an election. The UPFA that polled 5.8 million votes at the presidential election could get only 4.7 votes at the general election held only 7

Red Power: The government has entered a path of selling national resources such as ports, Kahatagaha mines, mineral sands deposits etc. Is this true and should people accept government's move?

Comrade Wasantha

Samarasinghe: It is no secret that the country is dragged into a massive debt precipice. It was only in 1952 we started paying for debts after 1948. By 1952 the total foreign debt we had to pay was Rs. 570 million. By the end of 2015 this had risen to over Rs. 10,500 billion. Our debts increase annually. By the end of this year the government will get another loan of nearly Rs. 1600 billion to meet government's expenditure. However, the government states it has to sell what the country has to ease the debt burden.

What the government states is a blatant lie. 80% of the Hambanthota Harbour is sold for US\$1,100 million but it raises another loan of US\$982 million stating it will be spent to construct a rail line from Kurunegala to Habarana. Developing a country doesn't mean selling or handing over resources and use that money for expenditure. No country has been developed in such a manner. A government should have short and long term strategies and plans. The issue in our country is that there is no strategic planning. As such, politicians' tactics or imaginations or their political schemes become economic plans of the country.

We believe that a colossal economic programme is necessary to salvage our country from the economic precipice it has been pushed into. We need foreign

investors. Also, we should mediate in the economy with a good plan as to how we could make use of our human resources, service sector, geographical location, what could be produced in the country, food safety, the place for the country in the world and how our ports could be used in commerce and naval matters. What do we sell next if we sell our ports, graphite mines, mineral sands deposits, our state institutions and enterprises without such mediation? The question before the country today is how could a government that cannot run an institute administer a country.

The hen that lays golden eggs lays only one egg a day. It would be futile to kill the hen to get all the eggs at once. The government is gradually selling avenues of income for the country.

What the two groups of the ruling class did during the past 68 years was to deprive the country of its avenues of earning. It was the rulers who dragged the country towards the debt precipice. As a result the people in the country have been imprisoned in a debt trap. What would remain once the state institutions are sold to settle the debt burden? Once the milk cow is sold there is no milk for the family or the calf. The family also



loses the avenue of earning. This country is being dragged to such an end. What the government states is that they are unable to take the country any further within their market economy. The people need not accept this lying down. The people should decide whether they allow the incompetent, the impotent, the thieves, and racketeers to run the country and they remain as flunkies or mediate like determined citizens to create a country where everyone could live freely. The people need not agree to the moves of the government that relinquish state institutions to satisfy the agenda of the IMF.

Red Power: What is the response of the working masses regarding selling state resources?

Comrade Wasantha Samarasinghe: As working masses we totally oppose selling state resources. It is the market economy that brought in abuse of state resources, waste, fraud and corruption to our country. Instead of the culture that should be developed in the use of state resources what has been acquired is the culture of plunder of state resources, their destruction and selling. It has come to a stage when policy makers of the government sell complete institutions, the lowest ranker in an office sells the broken chair or a bundle of

foolscap papers to earn 'something'. He has been made so weak within the economy. He too thinks of selling something that belongs to the state to earn some money. Selling state resources is a policy of economically bankrupt, impotent, defeatist and weak rulers and there is no country that has developed by selling state resources and assets. As such, it is necessary to draw strategic plans after studying what could be done, what is difficult to be carried out, how to get labour, technology etc. For example the East terminal in Colombo Harbour could earn if it is made operational with

modern equipment. However, the proposals from engineers and employees of the Harbour to make the harbour a profitable institution have been neglected and the government is planning to sell it to India after signing a secret agreement. Hambanthota is to be given to China and India would be given Trincomalee and East terminal of Colombo Harbour.

The government is following a completely wrong economic policy. The working masses are totally against this policy. The working masses totally oppose and condemn the 'selling policy' of the government.

Red Power: The EPF of the working masses has been dragged into the controversial Central Bank bond scam. The Inter Company Employees' Union had organized an agitation regarding this. Could you tell us what's happening regarding this?

Comrade Wasantha

Samarasinghe: we, as the Inter Company Employees' Union found many details about the Central Bank bond scam. We revealed the information we found to the country. It is clear that EPF has incurred a loss of nearly Rs. 15 billion due to this scam. EPF is the biggest fund that belongs to the working masses in Sri Lanka. Currently, it has nearly Rs.1300 billion – Rs.1.3 trillion. The annual income is more than Rs. 120 billion. This income is again invested in bonds and Treasury Bills. About 85% to 93% of the EPF has been given to the government as loans, in bonds and bills. The balance 6% to 7% has been invested

Page 07 >>>



Globalization in retreat?

Once the Socialist camp broke down the slogan of the imperialist camp and the programme was globalization. Under globalization imperialism spread to all nook and corners of the world and was able to take all under its control.

20 years after the crisis of the capitalist system exploded as a financial crisis as a result of globalization itself. Now, the creators of globalization and its consultants suddenly cast away globalization and retreat towards protectionism which really is isolation. They have begun to look for protectionism as the solution for the crisis. However, it would never be a solution for their crisis.

An article in Xinhua newspaper in China states this more vividly.

With Britons voting to leave the European Union and Donald Trump elected as the next U.S. president, a rising tide of protectionism seems to be sweeping the West.

However, the shift to inward-looking politics and economies should not be seen as a prelude to the end of globalization, but a signal calling for an updated version of this great trend -- globalization 2.0.

It is undeniable that current version of globalization, amid its massive achievements over the past decades, has some holes. Otherwise, 2016 would not have been marked

by those "black swan" events, which were seen as the outcome of the outbursts of angry and disappointed people.

A growing wealth gap worldwide is a vital flaw. As capital plays an increasingly important role, the rich are becoming richer and the poor even poorer. Massive wealth accumulation has been achieved on the basis of one's possession of assets, rather than one's diligence or intelligence, which makes the world a less fair place.

A highly integrated world also brings challenges to racial issues. As trans-border migration has become relatively easier and more frequent, greeting a new neighbor of a different ethnicity or a new colleague of a different religion is no longer a rarity. It may not be a problem when the economy is good, but one cannot help asking, "Who moved my cheese," with the finger inevitably pointed at newcomers.

However, facing an "imperfect" globalization, closing doors has never been and will not be a workable answer. Not even close.

For the United States, Trump's vow to build a massive border wall and make Mexico pay for it will only exacerbate the country's immigration woes.

For Britain, even before activating Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, the island

country has already witnessed a slump in its currency, with London seriously questioned for its status as an international financial center.

In other parts of Europe, where anti-globalization has gained momentum, voices of rejection have also been heard. In France, a ban last summer on the "burkini" swimsuit has been adopted in around 30 towns, but later sparked heated public debate and was then overturned in court.

To make globalization adapt to present circumstances, the world needs to launch its version 2.0.

The new version should have a fairer distribution model, with more developing countries involved in and benefiting from it. Wealth polarization, a tendency endangering world stability and development, needs to be addressed properly.

Integration, rather than separation, should continue to be the main trend. Only by more effectively and organically incorporating those of different backgrounds can the world move forward at a sound pace. A more inclusive policy on immigration should be considered, with thoroughly deliberated guidelines and more patience.

Globalization has not become a "dream model" yet. But it can be, with the joint efforts of all."

Colombia – A new political party from Guerillas

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) are preparing to form a new democratic and open political party. They have taken this decision after the guerillas signed a historic peace deal with Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos that aims to bring the nation's half-century conflict to an end.

The transformation from a guerilla unit to a legal political party will take place after the process of handing over weapons according to the agreement. The preparatory work to become a legal political party has already begun. As a result the leadership council of the organization has been expanded from 23 to 61 members.

USA to slash international funds

New York Times recently reported that Trump is contemplating slashing American funding by at least 40% to United Nations and other international organizations.

Trump's directive would launch a one-year review of U.S. support for international organizations including the United Nations and its related agencies, describe how U.S. money is used and offer recommendations for ways to reduce mandated U.S. contributions.

The review panel would include the State Department, the Pentagon, the Justice Department, the office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Office of Management and Budget and the White House national security adviser.

U.S. agencies would be directed to identify the "compelling national interest" for continued funding. The U.S. is the largest single donor to the U.N. — contributing 22% to the U.N.'s total operating budget — in addition to providing more than 28% of the funds necessary for peacekeeping work.

Syria: on the verge of getting a new constitution

Russia, in a bid to end the conflict and speed up political negotiations has given rebels in Syria a draft version of a new constitution for Syria drawn up by Moscow. The new version of the constitution presented by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has been based on ideas from the Syrian government, opposition and regional powers.

Russia said it gave the rebels the draft version drawn up by specialists to "speed up political negotiations to end the conflict".

One of the conditions mentioned in the draft included that the word "Arab" be removed from the official name of the country "Syrian Arab Republic".

The draft from the Russian delegation also proposed the dropping of religion as criteria for electing a president. Article 3 of the current Syrian constitution stipulates that the president has to be part of the Muslim faith.

Moreover, the draft new constitution also presented that the Syrian president would be elected for one term of seven years, without the right to re-election.

It also suggests that the country will have a parliament with two chambers and rejects Islamic sharia as the basis for law.

The peace talks in Astana held earlier this week were the first time the opposition and regime representatives have come together since United Nations-brokered talks in Geneva were suspended early last year.

We'll build a people's power to achieve a triumphant economic policy

Comrade Anura Dissanayaka

The JVP that planned the downfall of Rajapaksa regime asked people not to trust the replacement said Comrade

Anura Dissanayaka adding the JVP has now commenced rallying people to create a new administration and

>>>Page 07

JVP spurs reading habit in Uva



A ceremony to donate books to 64 school and public libraries in Badulla and Monaragala Districts was held at Uva Provincial Council auditorium on 17th January.

The books have been bought from allocations for JVP Councilors from Uva Provincial Council Comrade Samantha Vidyaratna and Comrade R.M. Jayawardene.

The ceremony held headed by Senior Lecturer at Sabaragamuwa University Sunil Senevi was participated by a large number of intellectuals

from the province. Rs. 1,422,620 had been spent to buy books from writers of the province.

Speaking at the ceremony Comrade Samantha Vidyaratna said the aim of the project to donate books to libraries is to encourage reading habit of the students and the people in the area, encourage writers in the province and encourage people to read the writings of the writers in the province. He said their intention is also to develop libraries in the province.

Comrade Bimal Rathnayaka meets Sri Lankans in Germany



The National Organizer of the JVP Comrade Bimal Rathnayaka who participated in the 18th Congress of the Communist Party of Sweden visited Germany and participated in seminars, meetings and discussions held at Dusseldorf, Berlin and Aachen by members of the JVP in Germany.

He apprised Sri Lankans in Germany how capitalist rulers have destroyed the country economically, politically and culturally and dragged Sri Lanka towards a precipice. Comrade Bimal Rathnayaka showed how the capitalist class deceived the people in the country by ruling with two capitalist political

parties separately and when they failed the two parties got together to rule but displayed their impotency once again.

He also introduced to the gathering the programme of the JVP to salvage the country from the ruinous state it has been subjected to and the dedication and sacrifices the JVP would make in making Sri Lanka a favourable country for all to live. He said the country would expect support and dedication of all Sri Lankans who live abroad when such a programme is carried out.

Comrade Bimal Rathnayaka has also participated, on an

invitation from Marxist-Leninist Party of Germany, in the first commemoration ceremony of the series of commemorations to be organized by REBELL, the youth organization of the Party, to celebrate 100th Anniversary of the Great October Revolution.

He stated that JVP is a shareholder of the struggle against imperialism carried out by World Socialists and the JVP and its international unit would fully support the task carried out by Marxist-Leninist Party of Germany in Germany. Later he had discussions with the international unit of the Marxist-Leninist Party of Germany.

JVP meets Sri Lankans in Denmark

Comrade Bimal Rathnayaka MP, in Sweden currently to participate in the 18th Congress of the Communist Party of Sweden, has participated in a meeting of Sri Lankans in Copenhagen on the 12th.

He has had discussions with JVP members in Denmark, sympathizers and many Sri Lankans living in that country.

He has also participated in

a seminar held as a part of the series of seminars organized by the International Unit of the JVP with the theme "Why Sri Lanka needs a genuine change".

Also, he, on an invitation by the Communist Party of Denmark, has had a discussion with the President of the Communist Party of Denmark Comrade Jørgen Petersen at the head office of the

Communist Party of Denmark on the task and responsibilities of Communists and their importance amidst the crisis in capitalism.

Comrade Bimal Rathnayaka has explained the path the JVP has taken until now and the responsibility and the tasks before the party at present.



Rally for a new political journey... >>> Page 04

in the share market. The control of the fund is by the Governor of Central Bank and the Monetary Board of the Central Bank. As a result the government could directly get loans.

At the bond issue the Central Bank that was under the father-in-law had asked EPF not to come to the primary market in bond transactions and has pressurized to buy bonds of his son-in-law's company. It has been revealed that son-in-law's Perpetual Treasuries has bought bonds worth nearly Rs.141 billion from primary market between 27th February, 2015 and end of June, 2016. From this 141 billion 135 to 134 billion has been resold to the EPF.

Our question is how did Perpetual Treasuries earn an income of Rs. 12,854 million as profits within 21 months. Even drug peddling would not bring such a profit margin. Even a large, reputed company that has been in business for 100 years would need 10 to 12 years to earn such a profit. Hence it is very clear that Perpetual Treasuries acquired tens of billions of rupees of bonds from auctions and unloaded 95% on the Employees Provident Fund. As such, EPF that could have given a loan to the Central Bank directly goes to such a transaction on pressure and instructions from the former Governor of Central Bank.

As a result the loss inflicted to EPF is nearly Rs. 15,000 million. The profit of Perpetual Treasuries for nine months of the year is close to Rs.13,000 million. As such, the loss inflicted to EPF could be the profit gained by Perpetual Treasuries.

We visited the Governor of the Central Bank on the 19th of last month to get an answer for this. He said he would give us an answer regarding the fraud that occurred in connection with the EPF in a week. We are waiting for his answer. Also, we would commence a series of massive rallies from February to make the country aware of the issue. We would reveal the thieves who plundered the money from EPF. Hence, we ask authorities to arrest the thieves. We would continue our struggle until they are arrested and plundered money recovered. It is very clear that a plunder - a racket - a day light robbery has been committed. The manner the plunder took place is known. The money that was plundered could be found. The thieves are known. Now, legal action should be taken. Our struggle is to recover Rs.15,000 million that was robbed from EPF and to get culprits punished. We'll continue the struggle with employees of the private sector until the stolen money is recovered and perpetrators are punished.

Red Power: The working masses, despite rising against the socio-economic conditions that torment them, are very slow in getting closer to the ideology of party politics they ought to stand with. What programme does your Union possess to overcome this hurdle?

Comrade Wasantha Samarasinghe: As the Inter Company Employees' Union we make the working masses aware that a struggle against the existing political system exists beyond the struggle to win economic demands. As such, getting closer to party politics is not an issue for the Inter Company Employees' Union. The rulers, the people as well as our members know that Inter Company Employees' Union is the private sector trade union front of the JVP. The Member of the Inter Company Employees Union knows that the struggle carried out by the Union is connected to the political struggle carried out by the JVP to make this country a better living place for all its citizens. The members contribute to this struggle according to their capabilities.

Hence, instead of the thinking that people are slow in getting closer to the political ideology, we believe that, relative to the backwardness that exists in our society, the member of the Inter Company Employees' Union is at the forefront. This member, who is in the forefront of all the struggles that arise against government's reactionary moves, takes part in agitations, awareness programmes, trade union activities, protests against selling state assets and resources definitely takes part in the May Day rally.

Daily, new members join us. They, with other working masses, farmers, fisher folks, youths, students, professionals, intellectuals and artistes, are prepared to struggle against the decaying and stinking existing economic system that plunders funds of the oppressed masses, that has grabbed the happiness of the downtrodden people, attempts to plunder labour arbitrarily, that denies a school for their children, denies medicine for illnesses, employment for youths and create a society that allows people to live freely and happily.

The employees of the private sector are prepared to make the forthcoming national election a diversion that would completely change the system that dragged the country along a rough, rocky and rugged path for 68 years and enter a path that would lead the country and the people towards serenity, happiness and equality. Inter Company employees' Union would give leadership to the working masses to become the vanguard of the struggle to change the existing system and create a system that would be beneficial for all.

Govt. protects...

>>> Page 01

Meanwhile, from the very beginning there are accusations that, instead of taking steps to punish the culprits and recover the funds that have been denied to the government, there are moves to protect the perpetrators. The indifferent manner the government acted regarding the bond scam, the conduct of the UNP MPs in the preparation of the COPE report and the conduct of the government after COPE report was released lead to suspicion that a just legal process would not be carried out in connection with the scam.

Sweeping the bond scam under the carpet is favourable to thieves from both sides. On one hand Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's friend, friend's son-in-law, those who

have got assistance from the son-in-law and the Prime Minister who gave the opportunity for the father-in-law would be able to keep away from legal hazards. On the other the thieves of Rajapaksa regime would be able to conceal their old thefts using the bond scam as a shield. Also, 'yahapalana' government loses its right to punish the thieves of the Rajapaksa era when perpetrators involved in the bond scam are left unpunished. This is a very favourable situation for thieves of Rajapaksa clique. Comrade Vijitha Herath talking to 'Red Power' regarding the situation said the masses should rally to demand legal action against those involved in the bond scam so that thieves from both sides would not be given an opportunity to lie law.

Has the crisis...

>>> Page 03

months later. This would indicate how speedily the vote base of the SLFP deteriorates.

Out of the two SLFP cliques, it is the Rajapaksa clique that is in the opposition at present. As they are being prosecuted for thefts, frauds and corruption committed during their term, they have to concentrate on ways of avoiding being imprisoned instead of thinking of projects to come to power. Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa's political personality too is decaying day by day. As such, their coming to power again would only be a dream.

All these facts indicate the calibre of the crisis of the ruling class within the crisis in capitalism. Now the crisis has begun to reflect not only at the bottom but also from the top.

This state will create 'opportunities' in politics and these opportunities would be advantageous for left and progressive forces only. The environment, the vacuum that has sprung up due to the weakening of capitalist political parties has opened an opportunity for a people's power. It is the responsibility of the left to take advantage of this special and advantageous opportunity to build a people's center and an alternative power to create a people's power and make a social transformation. It is our responsibility. What should be done now is to rally the masses and build people's power.

As Lenin once said when capitalist class plant in flower pots we should be prepared to till the land and gather the harvest.

We'll build...

>>> Page 06

a people's power would be developed to defeat the existing destructive economic policy and direct the country towards a triumphant economic policy.

He said this at a rally held at Hambanthota on 5th January.

Speaking further Comrade Anura Dissanayaka said, "The era of the UNP, SLFP administration has come to an end. When such a regime is about to end its tenure what is on display are economic breakdowns, large scale plunder, breakdown of human relationships, a country without laws and discipline, a country beset with anarchy. What is on display is the end of an era. Hence, carrying out healthy economic reforms, wholesome transformations in education and health services, raising people's living conditions, creating a contented society and a good legal system have to be left to a new era."

Comrade Lal Kantha addressing the rally said, "Let's tell Ranil and Maithri not to leave room for people in Hambanthota to surround Temple Trees with their agricultural tools. Say Hambanthota lands would not be taken over before they march to Colombo. The patriotic people in the country should build a people's struggle at the national level against the over to take over lands. People in Hambanthota have given a good start. They receive the respect of our party. Let's rally artistes, intellectuals, trade unions to this struggle. Let's take the struggle that we all began forward until we achieve victory. Let's commence a movement to defeat the present reactionary rulers who betray and sell the country and establish a people's administration that protects the country and develops it."

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When theft is elevated to heroism...

It was Pierre-Joseph Proudhon, a utopian socialist, who once said “private property is another name for stolen goods.” It is true. Private property created by capital that exists in capitalism is created by stealing the excess labour of wage earners. However this theft has been justified by capitalist law and ethics. It doesn't exist as a theft in the open. It is carried out through an economical process that is not easy to understand. However, the same capitalism, for its existence, to show that it is fair and honourable, opposes and hinders thefts that are carried out outside its system. This could be noticed in developed capitalist countries even today. Leaders connected with administration who get involved in illegal financial transactions, amassing wealth illegally, take bribes and abuse state property are punished. Laws have been executed. There are laws for such offences in Sri Lanka as well. The Bribery Act, Money Laundering Act are such laws.

However, capitalism in Sri Lanka has changed all these. The ‘smart’ thievery known as exploitation that is maintained by capitalism in its system has been transformed into a plunder committed in the open now. Today, getting state power is a license to thieving and plunder. This environment was created in Sri Lanka with the introduction of the so-called ‘open economy’ in 1978. However, thieving was championed by the previous Rajapaksa regime. Rajapaksa regime ganged up to steal and plunder billions.

Rajapaksas committed two large scale crimes within the impotent, backward capitalism in Sri Lanka. One is stealing billions of assets belonging to the people. The other is glorifying thieving or making the thief a national hero, which is a more serious crime.

What is being staged on political arena at present are such tragicomedies. Those who have defrauded billions and have bought lands, built mansions; those who abuse of public property distribute state vehicles and houses among their family members, relatives and henchmen pose as heroes.

The amount of public money Basil Rajapaksa cheated is so much that two lands and houses belonging to him at Matara and Malwana were taken over by the state as he disowned them. He didn't declare his ownership to the properties as he couldn't show how he earned the money to buy them. When he was arrested for cheating money in broad day light he baptized himself a ‘politically victimized hero’. Former Minister of Construction, Engineering Services, Housing and Common Amenities of the Rajapaksa regime has been arrested and remanded for distributing government vehicles among his relatives and leaders of his political party incurring a loss of billions to the government. Several leaders of his political party were also remanded for the same offence. However, what is surprising is that the gang of thieves and the gang leader have been made heroes. These thieves who have plundered public money and assets put up posters calling themselves ‘national heroes’. They observe ‘sil’ and hold seminars and in a rage for losing power and privileges sling mud at the JVP and its leaders.

The more serious tragedy is not their calling themselves heroes but the existence of certain factions in the society that endorse such vile acts, address thieves as heroes and calling them ‘our loving thieves’! There was a time when thieving was a shameful act. Even today rogues are considered villains in villages. However, thieving, while adorning state power, has become a heroic act today.

This tragicomedy is followed under the ‘yahapalana’ government as well. This could be seen from the attempt to protect the Central Bank robber baron. Ranil's government is committing two crimes here. One is protecting bond rogues and the other is giving an opportunity for all Rajapaksa thieves to conceal their thieving by pointing at the bond issue.

Such a condition existing when the social system declines and is deteriorated should be expected. What the society does today is not rejecting thieves but selecting the biggest thief; singing hosannas to the thieves. We know there are many who do not approve and reject such moves. They are the ones who expect good governance. However, this state cannot be changed without defeating capitalism. Hence, to prevent thieves from becoming heroes the social system of the country that makes thieves heroes should be changed. There is no other way of defeating thieves.



Opposing selling Hambanthota people's lands



Against SAIMT illegal degree shop



To protect people's assets...



SYU taken to the streets to defend external degree



Meeting Sri Lankan employees in Saudi Arabia