

Get the demon back inside the bottle!

It has been found that putting back the communal demon that has been let out is a difficult task. The communal hatred that has been hatched by interested parties has devastated certain areas in the country and has brought suffering to many. We believe communal tendencies do not occur spontaneously. There is a group that actively and deliberately creates the environment needed for communalism.

Also, there is a group that becomes prey to communal tendencies without being aware of

the politics that exist in such tendencies. Both main political parties in the country need this communal

tendency. This communal tendency is advantageous to the government to conceal its economic inability, inability in its administration, inability to fulfil the needs of the masses and to divert the opposition aimed at the government when it is unable to provide rights of the people. At a time when opposition to the government should have been built, instigating

the Sinhalese against the Muslims and vice versa is advantageous to the government.

When Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim farmers are unable to carry out their tasks, when Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim youths are distressed as they are denied employment opportunities corresponding to the education they have

received and all masses are tormented the masses that should have rallied against the government have been diverted towards a communal tendency. Not only the government but also the defeated political groups make use of communalism to come back to power. This is why the defeated clique, as soon as a grenade

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Sketch drawn in the desert in Kuwait on 16th February 2018



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Parliamentary melodramas to veil the hazard of the economic crisis

The main crisis that existed and the main topic that was discussed in the political arena in this country was whether the 'joint' government would continue, whether Mahinda would become the PM and whether Ranil would lose his PM's post. Despite the 'joint' government is sticking on, there is no shortage of exciting news of Parliament crisis and internal conflicts in the government. However, there exists in the country a real crisis that has been disguised by such news. It is the grievous economic crisis Sri Lanka is confronted with as a country.

From known times earning assets, production of goods and services within the economy of Sri Lanka have existed at a very low level. Despite the capitalist government that came to power obtaining billions as loans and displaying 'economic pageants', the economy didn't develop. They failed to create new sources of income. Even today Sri Lanka's economy depends on the plantation (tea, rubber, coconut) introduced to the country by colonialists and on unstable sectors such as foreign employment and the tourist industry.

Though income sources of the country do not expand the means of expenditure grows day by day. The foreign trade is at a hundred percent loss. The solution all rulers in Sri Lanka followed to overcome this issue was to take more and more loans. The final result of this idiotic move is that Sri Lanka is trapped in a debt trap and the economy of the country is in a precarious situation.

On 7th February the Auditor General held a press briefing and revealed the level of the debt crisis. This revelation brought about a massive outburst in the society. The most serious matter stated by the Auditor General at the press briefing was that not even Waima's son could estimate what Sri Lanka currently owes. This indicates administrations in this country taken loans outrageously, without a proper procedure and there is no way of estimating how much the country owes. For, loans have been taken by various state banks as well as government institutions in addition to the Central Bank. As such, Sri Lanka is trapped in a debt trap that is incalculable. Taking loans without strict and rigid discipline is the cause.

According to Central Bank reports the Auditor General is aware of the debt Sri Lanka has to pay is Rs. 10.3 trillion (A trillion is 1000 billion). This means Sri Lanka owes financing organizations more than Rs.10,000 billion. When the 'joint' government was formed the Prime Minister said in Parliament in 2016 that the total debt of Sri Lanka exceeded Rs. 10,500 billion. Asking the masses to be prepared to drink a 'bitter concoction' the Prime Minister made the people drink the 'bitter concoction' by increasing taxes. However, there was no reduction in the debt. For, Maithri – Ranil administration continued to take loans.

On the other hand, the Auditor General had revealed the assets of the country that bears such a massive debt. He had said the assets that have been identified and accounted is Rs.1.1 trillion or Rs. 1100 billion. This is when the question arises as to what happened to the loans taken. He also had stated the amount of identified debt that had not entered into the documents in the Ministry of Finance is Rs. 826 billion. This indirectly states there exists unidentified debt. It could be true as various institutions of the government in addition to the Central Bank have taken loans indiscriminately. The reason for this is the absence of a fiscal discipline in the country. Loans that have been taken have been stolen or wasted and it is the citizens of this country who have to bear the burden.

The other serious issue is most of them were short-term, high-interest loans. It is said that many such loans mature this year or the following year. In many such loans not the interest and the instalment but the whole debt has to be settled. How could such debts be settled? There are no means in the country to settle such debts. Then the answer would be to take more and more loans, sell state institutions and burden the masses with more and more taxes. This would create a severe crisis instead of a solution to the debt crisis. Sri Lanka's foreign assets are in crisis due to funds creeping out of the country as interest and instalments and also due to the loss of foreign trade. The final result is depreciation of the rupee. At the end of last year the exchange rate of a rupee in relative to the dollar was between Rs.139 – 140. However, at the end of February, the rupee had depreciated against the dollar to Rs. 157. The outcome of this would be the increase in prices of all imported goods. As such, the debt crisis in Sri Lanka is like a volcano waiting to erupt. The tragedy is that the politicians, feigning ignorance, perform political somersaults on the volcano and majority of the people in the country applause these antics as they are hypnotized by the 'kings' and 'princes'.

Anarchy & the power agenda of the Government



The moves of Ranil Wickremesinghe group and Maithripala Sirisena group in the government that are campaigning against each other to fulfil their own interests have brought in an anarchic situation in the country states the JVP adding that the JVP was prepared to struggle with the people against the government on behalf of the needs of the masses.

This was stated by the Leader of the JVP Comrade Anura Dissanayaka at a press conference held at the head office of the JVP on 28th February.

Despite three weeks have gone by since results of the local government election were announced, the situation the country is moving towards anarchic state as if there is no government functioning in the country said Comrade Anura Dissanayaka adding that the economic crisis forced on the country is getting further intensified.

The government doesn't act to solve issues of the people. The stability of the government is important in the development of the economy of a country. Currently, the rupee is depreciating daily. There are crises in the share market. A situation has arisen where foreign investments cannot be attracted to the country. The number of graduates unemployed is more than 50,000. It had not been possible to cultivate three or four seasons due to various reasons. The farmer community is distress as the government does not have a programme to buy their produce. Also, the prices of essential items

are going up jeopardizing people's lives, emphasized Comrade Anura Dissanayaka.

Comrade Anura Dissanayaka also revealed that communal forces are getting active at certain areas in the island and said what the government should do is to stop communalism raising its ugly head and affirm rights of all people in the country. However, the government has not identified them as issues but is concerned only about the ongoing power struggle within its ranks.

"After the election, the government told the country it would carry out a strong cabinet shuffle according to the result of the local government election. However, the cabinet reshuffle that was carried out was only a worthless playact. The playact has not ended yet. All this indicate the government is not prepared to carry out amendments necessary for the country.

Under such circumstances, the JVP is prepared to take to the streets to get the issues of the people solved and win their rights. This buffoonery of the government cannot be allowed to continue. The people in the country should be saved from the disaster caused by the buffoonery of the rulers. We would like to ask the government to keep crises of the President, the Prime Minister and the government to in Temple trees or at the President's House and to solve them there. We would like to emphasize that the JVP is prepared to struggle with the people on behalf of their issues," added Comrade Anura Dissanayaka.

Buffoonery that conceals real crisis in politics

It seems that the buffoonery that came on stage as soon as the results of the local government election were released has not come to an end yet. There are also, in our country, many 'political fans' who adore viewing such buffoonery. However, the issue is that due to these political buffooneries and pseudo pageants the real political crisis and political challenges get veiled. On the other hand the intention of those who are part and parcel of this buffoonery is to hide the genuine political reality from the masses.

Currently, the economic crisis is so precarious that a stage has been reached where even people's basic needs cannot be fulfilled. Also, the country has been confronted with a political crisis so that it has not been possible to form a stable government. On the other hand, the political culture in the country has deteriorated and the majority of the people have become 'political devotees' who, without any political conscious, revere illogical political idols. Despite the challenge before the country is changing such situation, what takes place are political pageants in which people have become silent spectators.

When the results of the local government election were announced everybody talked of the grave defeat of the government and the 'remarkable victory' of the Rajapaksa clique. It is in such an environment that views were expressed that Parliament should be dissolved, the Prime Minister must resign and Mahinda should be made the Prime Minister. However, the 'joint' government was not dissolved, Ranil did not resign and Mahinda didn't become the PM. Maithri - Ranil 'joint' government continues to exist and Ranil continues to be the Prime Minister. Mahinda who asked for the premiership later asked for the post of the Leader of the Opposition but never got it. Now he remains Kurunegala



District Parliamentarian Mahinda Rajapaksa. Also, the cabinet reshuffle the President had promised has become a nonentity.

What does it indicate? The existing political crisis and the impotency of capitalist political parties have made political 'miracles' impossible.

President Maithripala Sirisena, who talked of removing Ranil from the premiership and forming a pure SLFP government as soon as election results were published, had to have Ranil as his PM and continue with the old administration. Furthermore, President Sirisena did not have any other alternative but to present the appointment letter of the Minister of Law and Order to Ranil despite having his name mentioned in connection with the Central Bank bond scam. This shows how powerful Mr Maithripala Sirisena is in

the government. The local government election has drastically reduced his power as the President instead of increasing it. Generally, the election has weakened President Sirisena's political power. This is why his statements of forming a pure SLFP government have been made invalid. Also, the threat by certain SLFP stalwarts to join Mahinda to has demanded Maithri to stay with Ranil's government.

Also, Ranil, who said he would form a pure UNP government if the SLFP leaves the 'joint' government, has not been able to do so. The attempt to form a government with several SLFP ministers in the government has not materialized as President Sirisena had warned that he would not give ministerial portfolios to anyone that leaves the SLFP. Also, the election result that has challenged the

weak power in Parliament for the UNP is another reason for the attempt of the UNP to form a government of its own to become a dream only. The UNP has lost nearly 1.5 million votes at the LG election when compared with the general election in 2015. The internal conflicts in the UNP too have intensified. This is the reason why there was no 'big' change in the cabinet.

On the other hand, the attempt made by Mahinda clique to get the SLFP out of the government, subject it to a political 'probation', isolate President Sirisena and aiming to get the support of the Maithri group to form local councils in some of the councils they didn't have an absolute majority was unsuccessful. It shows that Mahinda clique too is not strong enough to make decisions. The so-called 'victory' shown in the election is not the real substance of the result of the Rajapaksa clique. With compared to the general election in 2015 Mahinda clique has increased only 200,000 votes. Even if the 4.9 million votes remain with Mahinda clique without any change it would not be able to get even 105 seats at a future general election. For, at the general election in 2015 the UNP with 5.1 million votes could get only 107 seats. As such, Mahinda's election victory was an inflated one. This is why Mahinda has not been able to grab the post of leader of the opposition in Parliament.

When considered generally, the government has been defeated at the election. The UNP has lost 1.5 votes while the President with his executive powers, assistance from ministers and the official

leadership of the SLFP and the UPFA could muster only 1.4 million votes. However, the opposition has increased the number of votes at the election. Mahinda clique has increased its number of votes by 200,000 while the JVP has 168,000 more votes than the number it polled at the previous election. This is why nobody is able to come up with a new scuffle. Maithri and Ranil will have to give up the dream of becoming the next president. Their dream of becoming the president is not a reality anymore. As a result, there is, within the government, an extra convenience of abolishing executive presidency. The Ranil-Maithri obstruction for abolishing executive presidency has been shattered. Also, Mahinda is legally barred from contesting a presidential election. As such, there is a new circumstance of abolishing the executive presidency and all forces that value democracy should use this opportunity to abolish the executive presidency. The JVP could execute a special task in the endeavour.

The political crisis in the country and the election result has opened a new political path for the JVP. What's it? As a result of Mahinda clique raising its head at the election the social forces that came forward to defeat Mahinda in 2015 have become concerned. Also, the task these forces executed at the 2015 presidential election to bring in 'good governance' has been betrayed by Maithri - Ranil duo. Maithri is no longer a force and is not a person that could be trusted. This is a confirmation of what the JVP said at the 2015

Forces dedicated for social justice have no other choice other than the JVP

Comrade Tilvin Silva
General Secretary of the JVP

Red Power: There are various analyses regarding the results of the local government election. Is your party satisfied with the result?

Comrade Tilvin Silva: If we study the result of the local government election and if we compare it with the results of elections held earlier, there is definitely a victory for the JVP. When we compare with the 5,43,944 votes we polled at the general election in 2015 we have polled 7,12,428 votes at this election - increasing the votes we have received by 1,68,484 votes. The 4.87 percentage in 2015 has increased to 6.3%. The number of our councilors in 2011 was 74. This time it has increased to 434. As such, we have a victory. However, according to the political environment that existed and according to our mediation with our election campaign we expected a better result. We didn't get the result we expected. However, we are able to go forward with the favourable result we have been given by the masses. It is a strength for our future political moves.

Red Power: With the election result a political crisis too surfaced in the country. Certain parties won and others lost. What is the political message the result of the election gives the country?

Comrade Tilvin Silva: It is the government that has been defeated, the UNP that was the major partner in the

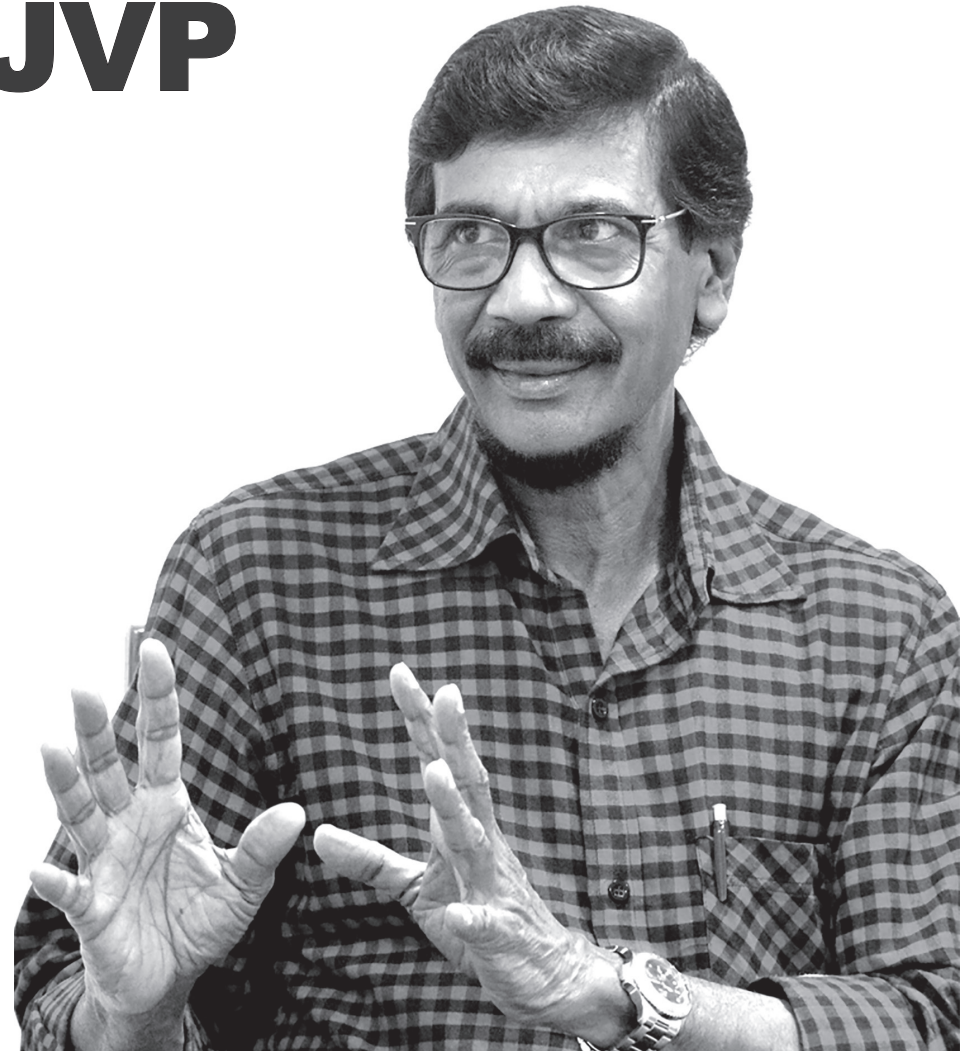
government. Compared to the general election in 2015 the UNP votes have come down from 50,98,927 to 36,12,259. The decrease is nearly 1.5 million. The percentage has come down from 45.66 to 32.63. Also, President Maithripala Sirisena, who polled 6.2 million votes at the presidential election, could muster only 14,81,656 votes for the party he gave leadership to. Meanwhile, in addition to the JVP, Mahinda faction too has increased the number of votes. They, as the UPFA, had received 47,32,669 votes in 2015 and this time as Mahinda faction they received 49,41,952 votes. However, their percentage still remains at 44.65. They have not been able to reach 57,68,000 figure Mahinda Rajapaksa received at the presidential election in 2015.

What is evident from the result is that the people have rejected the present government. People have rejected the UNP and no alternative has been selected. Some of the nearly 1.5 million votes the UNP has lost have gone to Mr. Maithripala Sirisena's party, a few to us and another few to Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa's party. The reason why the people have rejected the government led by the UNP is clear. The government failed to fulfill the aspirations of the people during the past three years. Instead

of halting frauds and corruption it got involved in the bond scam. No punishment was given to the large scale thefts, frauds and corruption of the previous government. Also, the economy broke down. The cost of living of the people went up. Throughout the three years Maithri and Ranil dreamt about their future power and carried out moves to achieve their agendas but never did anything to fulfill the needs of the masses. This created an anarchic situation and the result was the people reduced the number of votes for the government and taught it a lesson. It is obvious that the people have rejected the government.

Red Power: Does it mean that Mahinda Rajapaksa group would become the alternative? What is your analysis regarding the increase in the number of votes for Mahinda?

Comrade Tilvin Silva: When we analyze the result what is obvious is that despite Mahinda group has risen above due to the defeat of the government, they have not received any new victory. Due to the failure shown by the government during the past three years, Rajapaksas' vote base at the 2015 general election did not change. At this election a small number of votes have been added. However, it is not a big victory. Mahinda faction has failed or even failed to come near the number of votes it received at the



presidential election in 2015. As such, they have not received any new victory. Government's failure, opposition to the government and its weakness has made Mahinda faction to be seen above the government. The masses who have relinquished the government with their opposition to the government have not selected an alternative. All they have done is to reject the government. Though it looks as if Mahinda faction has gained a massive victory, practically it is not so. There are nearly 160 local councils in which they cannot form a council. It looks as if Ranil and Maithri could form administrations in these councils if they join hands. As such, Mahinda faction cannot enjoy the 'great victory' that was seen when results were announced. On the other hand even if there is no

change to the number of votes the 'bud' has received, at a future general election Mahinda faction would not be able to get even 105 seats in Parliament. At the last general election the UNP received nearly 5.1 million votes and got 106 seats. How could Mahinda faction form a government with 4.9 million votes? As such, the victory Mahinda is said to have gained doesn't exist. Mahinda faction that had asked voters to vote for Mahinda to become Prime Minister coming down to the level of asking for the post of Leader of the Opposition indicates the myth of their so-called victory. However, we shouldn't underestimate the number of votes they polled.

Red Power: After the election there was criticism about the behavior of the voters in our country. What are your thoughts about it?

Comrade Tilvin Silva:

We see the people who are expected to think and act logically with the development of science and technology getting immersed in fallacy and irrationally. Also, there is a tendency to create mental images and to regard them with adoration. Rajapaksa mania is one such frenzy. The election that was concluded was a local government election. What should have and could have been done was to elect a good councilor to serve the people in the ward and to elect a good team for the council. However, nearly half the number of voters in the country voted to make 'Mahinda the PM'. What an illogical act was it! However, it's what happened.

There are many examples that express the idiocy of this. The

Maldives: Sinking in a Political Crisis



At this moment a serious political crisis is developing in the Maldives. Though it can be seen as an internal political crisis it is also a result of the power game of the regional political powers. This crisis started with the Supreme Court ruling of the Maldives on February 01 against suppressive actions taken by the present Maldives president against the former president Mohomad Nasheed and others. The Supreme Court ruled that those suppressive actions were illegal and the jailed opposition leaders must

be released.

Responding to this Supreme Court ruling, President Abdhulla Nasheed arrested two Supreme Court judges, including the Chief Justice and declared a state of emergency. With this anti-government protests erupted in the country and president Yameen extended the state of emergency for another month, sacked the police chief and handed over more powers to the security forces.

The presidential election of Maldives is scheduled to be held in October this year.

According to political analysts former president Mohomad Nasheed who ruled the country from 2008-2012 has more winning chance at the election. He is famous as an Indian loyalist as well.

Immediately after the declaration of the state of emergency, India issued a statement and said that it is observing the developments and Indian government faced difficulties with the declaration of the state of emergency. Also, reports said that a battalion of 1500 Indian Special Force had been placed on alert for any emergency

intervention.

However, China declared that the crisis is an internal matter of the Maldives and calling the international community "to respect the Maldives' sovereignty and not take actions that may further complicate the situation."

Also, the Indian PM Narendra Modi has discussed the growing crisis in the Maldives with US president Donald Trump on February 09.

The Maldives which received nominal independence from British in 1965 is a country made by thousands of small corral islands and with 400,000 population. It is located in an important position in the main nautical route of the Indian Ocean. Abdhul Yameen has been the president of the Maldives since 2013 and he is considered as loyalist of China and also maintaining good relations with India.

Venezuela: transfer to internet based crypto currency



On February 20 Venezuelan introduced digital currency. This will help the country to circumvent U.S.-led financial sanctions.

This currency will be backed by oil, gas, gold and diamond reserves and it will be operated as a separate system.

Nepal: Prime minister from the united left

Chairman of the United Marxist Leninist Communist Party of Nepal K.P.Sharma Oli has been appointed as the 41st prime minister of Nepal.

In the last general election United Marxist Leninist Communist Party and Maoist Communist Party (Mao Centre) contested in an alliance and secured 2/3rd majority in the Parliament.

USA: Backing Zionism



RT news agency reported that the US embassy in Israel will be shifted to Jerusalem from May 2018. The shift of the embassy is planned to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Israel. This is a complete change of the US foreign policy.

United States: Shutting down of Federal Government

From midnight of January 19 the US federal government was shut down for three days. The reason is the US Senate failed to approve the budget up to February 16. To approve the expenditure 60 votes of the Senate was required but the Republican Party failed to get the votes.

In a federal shutdown of this nature the non-essential services are terminated. The US president has to do so when the Congress failed to approve funds. Normally, the Congress approves the next year budget by September 30. Then the Congress has to provide funds continuously. The Federal shutdown happened when this

process failed. This is a total failure of the budget process.

However, even at a federal shut down the essential services are not terminated and therefore areas such as national security are not affected. Also, the border security, Immigration and emigration, air traffic control, transport, security administration, judiciary, postal services too are not affected.

Federal shut down over two weeks will create adverse



implications on economic development of the country, because federal expenditure is a part of the GDP. Government expenditure of the USA is around 18% of the GDP. Federal shut downs were reported in 2017, 2013 and 2011 as well.

Spain: Pensioners take to the streets!

On February 22 pensioners in Spain started a protest demanding a pension payment sufficient for living. Their slogans were; Protect Social Pension system! Protect labour and social rights!!

With the depletion of social safeguard funds Spain government has trimmed the cost of living allowance in the pension payment. As a result, the purchasing power of the pensioners has seriously affected.

“Ranil – Maithri administration, instead of managing the economy for the benefit of the people, continued with the old, gluttonous economy. The result of 10th February election is the people’s response to their idiotic moves. As such, the President or the Prime Minister can no longer fulfil the aspirations of the people. Only a people’s movement led by the JVP would be able to fulfil the aspirations the people expected with the 8th January change. We would assure that a political centre lead by the JVP would be built fulfil the aspirations of 8th January,” says the Leader of the JVP Comrade Anura Dissanayaka.

He said this speaking at a press conference held at the head office of the JVP today (15th). The General Secretary Comrade Tilvin Silva and the Member of the Political Bureau K.D. Lal Kantha were also present.

Comrade Anura Dissanayaka said, “According to the official records the number of votes the JVP has received is nearly 715,000. Also, the number of councillors is about 434. The number of seats the JVP had in LG councils was 74. As such, the number of JVP councillors has increased by 360. When compared with the general election in 2015 the number of votes for the JVP has increased by 170,000. The 715,000 votes we received are from those who accepted the programme and policies of the JVP. As a responsible political party, we have the responsibility to defend the trust of those who voted for us. Voters have various targets in casting their votes to different political parties. The voters who have voted for the JVP have done so to build an alternative socio-economic force. We pledge that we would make defend their trust and give value to their votes. We would never allow those who vote for

JVP will build people’s center to fulfill aspirations of 8th January



us to regret or get frustrated that they had made a mistake. All our 434 councillors would act as genuine representatives of the people in a manner that would make those who voted them proud and we promise that we would manage our politics so that it would be easy for our councillors to serve the people.

According to results, no political movement has exceeded 45% of votes. Also, no party can have power in 167 councils on its own. There have to be amalgamations to have power in such councils. As such, both parties have asked for the support of the JVP in these councils. There have been offers of making our comrades Chairmen of certain councils. However, the 715,000 voters who voted for us did not vote to form joint administrations; not to form alliances’. The task of our councillors within the councils and outside them is to serve the people as honest representatives of the people. We would assure that this would be carried out unabated.

There is a state of disarray in the country at present. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and President Maithripala Sirisena are responsible for this state. When the existing administration was toppled on 8th January 2015 the people had a political demand. It was not a personal need but the former administration was defeated to get a general need of the country fulfilled. This need was highlighted in the words ‘good governance’. The need was democracy, halting frauds, corruption and waste, punishing the corrupt, taking economy on a correct path and establishing a righteous political culture. However, the government from the time it was formed acted against the requirements of the people. Mr Maithripala Sirisena was having a fairy dream of protecting his chair at the next presidential election. Mr Ranil Wickremesinghe’s dream was to sit on the Presidential chair instead of the prime minister’s post at the next presidential election. Their personal needs came up. They are

today are confronted with the consequences of their dreams. Instead of punishing fraudsters they were protected. Both Ranil and Maithri were taking steps to get support from fraudsters at the next presidential election instead of punishing them.

Also, instead of managing the economy for the benefit of the people they continued with the old, gluttonous economy. The results of 10th February are the people’s response to their idiotic moves. As such, the President or the Prime Minister can no longer fulfil the aspirations of the people. Only a people’s movement led by the JVP would be able to fulfil the aspirations the people expected with the 8th January change. We would assure that a political centre lead by the JVP would be built.

With the power struggle that has come up with the result of the LG election, there is no attention to the day to day lives of the people. There is no discussion regarding the economic crisis that has surfaced in the country. There is

no attention to the issues of the farmer community, fishermen or the education sector. There is no discussion at all regarding abolishing the presidential system or establishing a new constitution. Nothing is discussed regarding minimizing frauds, corruption and waste or punishing the fraudsters. This is why President Maithripala Sirisena is attempting to form a government with Rajapaksa’s group and also having discussions with the UNP despite calling them fraudsters. The main intention of the discussions is to consolidate the power or to grab power.

The JVP manipulated the political instability that occurred in 2001 in a manner advantageous to the people. We took people-friendly measures such as bringing in a constitutional amendment to stabilize democracy, doing away with farmers’ loans. Similarly, our approach at this moment would be to manipulate politics to bring benefits to the people.”

Forces dedicated for...

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main example is what happened at Maharagama. The nomination list of the Mahinda faction for Maharagama UC was rejected. They came to an understanding with an independent group. According to election law this independent group is illegal. All candidates named in the nomination list of this group were not residents of Maharagama. Many of them were residents of Gampaha District. Also, the Elections Commission emphasized that no outsiders from nomination lists could be appointed as councilors. The voter, irrespective of all these warnings, brought victory to the independent group. Certain candidates who have lost their candidature as their nominations were illegal had received more votes as they contested to make Mahinda the PM. This shows that a considerable number of voters in our country suffer from 'Rajapaksa frenzy'.

Of course, there were reasons for the people in our country to fall down to such a low level. The social conditions created by 40 years of open economy and the political culture beefed up

by Rajapaksas during their tenure have created not logically thinking people who are capable of reasoning but fanatics who blindly follow what their idols say. People have a massive responsibility to break loose from this state. Also, we and other progressive forces have a responsibility to mediate in changing this state of mind of the masses.

What is regrettable is that the media in our country, certain elements who call themselves the educated and certain religious leaders engage in immersing the masses in this delusion. As such, the struggle to change the masses is not simple. It is difficult. However, it should be and could be done.

Red Power: Finally, how does this election result influence the future objectives and practice of the JVP? We would like to know the programmes the JVP would follow under the circumstances.

Comrade Tilvin Silva: We have been working with the objective of building a political center targeting the 2020 general election. Though the election result has not nullified the objective it



the people in the country do not like the return of the corrupt family rule of the Rajapaksas. The intention to prevent such an occurrence exists within anti – Mahinda and progressive forces. The only force they could trust in preventing Rajapaksas coming back to power is the JVP.

On the other hand the forces in the government failed to build the 'just society' the majority of the people wanted to see after the 2015 presidential election. It has been established that they no longer could build such a society. People know that both Ranil as well as Maithri are not capable of building such a society.

As such, the only political movement

the social forces that wish and attempt to build a 'just Society' can choose now is the JVP. In short, the UNP or Maithri would never be able to prevent an undemocratic, suppressive corrupt administration that would be created or they would never be able to build a 'just society' in the country. It has been confirmed only the JVP would be able to undertake this task.

In such a state an environment has surfaced in which a political center that could rally forces that believe in democracy and social justice could be built and that allows us to play a leading role in it. The path we should take is clear now. Let's move along this path. Meanwhile, let's utilize the contradictions that exist in this weak administration to win democratic rights for the masses. Getting the executive presidency abolished would be paramount. We, while giving leadership to class struggles on the ground and on the other striving to win democratic rights with the long term objective of changing the country and rallying forces that believe in social justice, should endeavour to create such a center. This is our responsibility and task of the moment.

Get the demon...

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exploded in a bus recently, made statements regarding the 'rise of tigers'. They sowed communalism talking about the 'making of an Eelam' during the election campaign. This defeated clique cannot attract masses to them saying they would establish democracy, develop economy or adopt a good foreign policy for the country. This is why they amplified communal tendencies. Communalism is spread by the government to consolidate its power and the defeated clique does so to come back to power. It would be difficult to put back the communal demon that has been taken out of the bottle.

The Leader of the JVP Comrade Anura Dissanayaka speaking at a press conference said a political party should not use communalism to grab power and he appealed to all political parties to reject communal tendencies. He also warns the masses that voting for communalism, cheering it and spreading it would make the country a 'lake of blood'. He said that all media institutions in the country have a massive role to play. Whatever goal they have they should refrain from acting in a manner that would encourage communalism and

mass media should be used not to spread communalism but to eradicate it added Comrade Anura Dissanayaka.

He said, "Our country was confronted with a 30-year brutal communal war. This land has been soaked with blood and tears; heaps of corpses were dumped in the South as well as in the North. The parents of our generation became the victims of that communal war. There could be differences and conflicts between policies of the UNP, the SLFP, the TNA and any other political party. There could be various debates regarding the economy of the country. However, a political party should not use communalism to grab power. We appeal to all political parties to reject communal tendencies. We also warn the masses that voting for communalism; cheering it and spreading it would make our country a 'lake of blood'.

Also, we emphasize to the government that there shouldn't be any encouragement for communalism hereafter. We believe that all media institutions in the country have a massive role to play. Whatever goal they have they should refrain from acting in a manner that would encourage communalism. Mass

media should be used not to spread communalism but to eradicate it. We ask everyone not to spread communalism.

We also ask masses in our country to condemn communalism. Many in our generation lost their lives in the war. Many lost their limbs. As such, we should not let our children experience the same sufferings. Our future generations need not confront any war conflict. We should remember that we are human beings before we are Sinhalese, Tamil or Muslim. As such, there is no need for communal clashes. Strive to defeat communalism. We, of the JVP, have always rejected communalism. We have struggled against communalists even when we are faced with very difficult situations. We always represent national unity. Hence, we are prepared to defeat communal tendencies whatever insults or obstructions are hurled against us. Communal tendencies should be defeated as soon as they surface. Our country need not be a military state. Hence, we once again ask all citizens of this country to take all measures against communalism," said Comrade Anura Dissanayaka.

Buffoonery...

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presidential election. The UNP has been weakened. No one can trust them. As such, the only force anti-Mahinda forces could trust that could prevent Mahinda Rajapaksa vicious clique from coming back to power is the JVP. As the forces that aspired for good governance and a righteous society at the presidential election in 2015 have been betrayed by the Ranil-Maithri partnership, they need a new political leadership. This need could be fulfilled only by the JVP.

Under these circumstances, the JVP has an opportunity for a move to get the executive presidency abolished while the JVP has been given the opportunity of giving leadership to a new political force, a political center that would be built to establish social justice and democracy in the country. The challenge and the task that are before the JVP now is to correctly use the new political opportunity that has been created underneath the political buffoonery and the crises that exist in the country at present and the JVP and progressive forces in the country should expeditiously move to fulfil this political requirement.

RED POWER



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Participating in the 6th National Convention of the Youth Organization of the Russian Communist Party



A discussion with Communist Party of Britain



Addressing Sri Lankans in France..



From the "Sketch in the dessert" in Kuwait

JVP meets Sri Lankans in London



The National Organizer of the JVP Comrade Bimal Rathnayaka and the Member of the Political Bureau Sunil Handunneththi were in the UK to participate in a special workshop organized by the British Parliament for members of the Committee On Public Enterprises (COPE).

During the three day workshop in British Parliament, Comrade Bimal Rathnayaka participated in a seminar in Stockholm in Sweden organized by the JVP. A large number of Sri Lankans irrespective of their political leanings participated.

Comrade Bimal Rathnayaka also had a special discussion with the President of the Communist Party of Sweden.

Both Comrade Bimal Rathnayaka and Comrade Sunil Handunneththi also participated in a well attended seminar organized by the JVP Committee in Britain. They have had a special discussion with comrades of the Communist Party of Britain.

Several discussions and seminars also had been organized in Birmingham, Bolton, Liverpool, Brighton and in Harrow in London.



Special workshop held for councillors elected to local councils from the JVP