

We're prepared to line up with other parties to Abolish Executive Presidency

The JVP has taken steps to have official discussions with all political parties representing Parliament and to hold a series of seminars to apprise the masses regarding the 20th amendment to the Constitution.

As 6 months have gone by since the 20th amendment was presented in Parliament by the JVP and the government has not expressed its view on the amendment, it has been entered in the order book. As such, the JVP requests all MPs and party leaders to use the votes of all 225 Members to allow it to go to

the people without blocking it in Parliament.

The Leader of the JVP Comrade Anura Dissanayaka made this request at a press conference held at the party head office on the 28th. Speaking further Comrade Anura Dissanayaka said, "It is more than 40 years since

the executive presidency was established from the Constitution of 1978. During these 40 years, the failure of the executive presidential system has been proven and it has more than proved that the Parliamentary system is better for the country. The incidents that occurred during this period of 40 years in which the country was ruled under the executive presidential system have proved its destructive nature. The masses have had devastating experiences of executive



presidential powers being used to ban political parties and trade unions, postponing elections and grabbing power conspiratorially. Hence, we propose that the Parliamentary system is better than the executive presidential system.

Not only from September last year but from the day the executive presidency was introduced to the country in 1978 the progressive movements, civil organizations and left movements

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'We're ready for the challenge to bring victory to the country' - Re-organization of electoral committees of the JVP

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‘Terrorist Act’ should be defeated!

There is, throughout the world, a history of capitalist rulers suppressing masses using the concept ‘prevention of terrorism’. It was then President J.R. Jayawardene who introduced the Prevention of Terrorism Act in 1979. In fact, the Act was instrumental in propagating terrorism rather than suppressing it. For, it was used to suppress masses who asked for their rights. The Act, enclosed in the ‘prevention of terrorism’ wrapper that no one could object to was later utilized to suppress the JVP. It was used to the North as well. The act was an oppressive law that completely destroyed all human and personal rights of the people and the fundamental values of democracy. Massive opposition to the act surfaced locally and even an international protest and pressure developed due to the heinousness of the act.

The JVP opposed the Prevention of Terrorism Act brought by Jayawardene regime as soon as it was introduced in 1979. A united action against it was also carried out with left parties. However, the move to implement the Act could not be defeated and afterwards, the progressive political parties, organizations and individuals had to pay the consequences of the draconian act with their lives.

In this environment, due to the opposition that developed locally as well as internationally for the Prevention of Terrorism Act, the UNP had to promise that it would be abolished. Now, the UNP is getting ready to abolish it. However, with this a new issue a new danger has surfaced. For, the UNP has linked abolishing the old act with the move to bring in a new act. The government that is readying to bring in a new act while abolishing the old act has already drafted the new act.

What so ever, extreme communal forces whose politics is nothing but communalism and those in the North who suffer from the insanity of dominating the masses in the North and other small communities are opposing even the abolishing of the old Act saying ‘prevention of terrorism’ is essential. The ideology of such sections that have no accountability regarding democracy or human rights have been a boon for the UNP to bring in the new act.

Abolishing the old prevention of terrorism act is a good step. However, bringing in another such ‘terrorist’ act to fill the void cannot be accepted. The most serious issue is how the government had defined terrorism. According to the new act demanding the government to do or not to do something too is a terrorist act. If the act is adopted no community in the country would be able to carry out a peaceful agitation for their rights. The government would be able to name even a struggle carried out by the working masses as a terrorist act.

It is evident that capitalist administration would deny even the capitalist democracy when capitalism is in crisis. This is why a government looks beyond normal laws and needs special laws. Currently, it is necessary to suppress even justifiable struggles of the masses to maintain capitalism. This is why they need new laws. They would never want to eradicate terrorism. For, they need it for their existence.

‘Terrorism’ is not a concept that could be defined according to the wishes of each and every one. It is a concept that should be analyzed deeply. However, ‘terrorism’ is accordingly to the capitalist government is opposing their administration. For them, their (class) opponents are ‘terrorists’.

On the other hand, it is the capitalist system, the capitalist administrations that prepare the socio-economic-political environment that creates so-called terrorism. Their intention is to label the agitations and protests their wrong administrative systems create as terrorism and suppress them. This would be a hindrance to identifying the real terrorism that exists.

In such an environment, all democratic and humanitarian forces should rally to defeat the ‘terrorist’ act the government intends bringing in on the pretext of abolishing the old act.

Abolish Executive Presidency

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have expressed their views opposing it. Also, on five occasions all three Presidents who contested and won the presidential election promised to abolish the executive presidential system.

J.R. Jayawardene used the executive presidential system to carry out an adamant dictatorial rule. He carried out draconian moves such as banning political parties and trade unions, postponing elections etc. Also, Chandrika Kumaratunga carried out an arbitrary and anarchic administration for 11 years. During the 10 years of Mahinda Rajapaksa rule, executive presidential powers were used to create absolute power for his family. Maithripala Sirisena while violating the Constitution is carrying out a clownish, buffoonery administration during his tenure of 4 years. He has, during his tenure, proved how idiotic executive presidency is. As such, there couldn’t be any quandary about abolishing the executive presidential system. What is needed is to commence measures to abolish it.

We hope to have official discussions with the Leader of the Opposition Mahinda Rajapaksa regarding this next week. For, the votes of his group of MPs are decisive for the 2/3rd majority needed in Parliament. Also, we have already had unofficial talks with the TNA regarding the matter but hope to have official discussions as well. We would also discuss this with the UNP. It was Ranil Wickremesinghe during the last presidential election in 2015 who clamoured, more than Maithripala Sirisena, about the need to abolish executive presidency. Also, at two UNP conventions motions have been adopted to abolish executive presidency. As such, Ranil Wickremesinghe has no right to sidestep the issue. We also hope to discuss with SLMC and political parties of Ministers Mano Ganesan and Rishad Bathiudeen.

Also, a broad dialogue should be begun with the masses regarding abolishing the executive presidential system. The conspiracy that was carried out on 26th October proved to the masses the absurdity of the executive presidential system. During the 52 days, the conspiracy existed the country was made completely unstable. After the incident, a broad dialogue occurred in the society regarding the Constitution and abolishing executive presidency. The dialogue should be continued further. Ranil Wickremesinghe who talked on behalf of the Constitution and democracy is now, after consolidating power, is attempting to suppress criticisms regarding the executive presidential system. As such, we are prepared to take measures with all those groups who oppose the executive presidential system. We are taking measures to hold a series of seminars throughout the country during the month of March to apprise the people regarding our moves to get the executive presidential system abolished.

According to the atmosphere that has developed in the country there is a need for a general election. President Maithripala Sirisena has already infringed the mandate he received on 8th January 2015. The government Ranil Wickremesinghe temporarily set up doesn’t have people’s approval. Also, the administration has broken down due to the postponement of elections for provincial councils. If the 20th amendment is adopted there wouldn’t be any need to hold a presidential election, but it would pave the way for the general election. As such, we are agreeable for the dissolution of Parliament as soon as the 20th amendment is adopted.

Our intention of abolishing executive presidency is ethical. We have a genuine need regarding strengthening democratic institutions in the country. It is necessary to strengthen Parliament, the cabinet and the independent commissions including that of the judiciary and the police. It has been proved that abolishing executive presidency is very essential to strengthen these institutions. Also, a constitutional amendment would not find the answer to all the issues confronted by the people in their day to day lives. However, broadening democracy would be very important for such struggles. As such, we, as a party, would strive to get the 20th amendment adopted.”

The General Secretary of the JVP Comrade Tilvin Silva and the Member of the Political Bureau Comrade Lal Kantha were also present.

Presidential election or the general election?

At the beginning of 2019, the leaders of political parties who are in power and were in power said this year was an 'election year'. According to the Constitution elections for all nine provincial councils should be held this year. Also, the presidential election too has to be held at the end of this year if the executive presidency is not abolished before that. This is why many consider this as an election year.

As it is, the UNP government, as well as Maithri and Mahinda factions, seem to be sorting out their strategies and acts to manipulate the election that would be advantageous to each of them. They are not concerned about the country or the people. President Maithripala Sirisena and Mahinda Rajapaksa group like to have the election for provincial councils first. They think having provincial council election first when working together would not create many contradictions between the two factions and they also think they would be able to win the election. However, the UNP doesn't favour provincial council elections. They know it is disadvantageous for them. Especially, the lower rank of the party is very weak. As such, they seem to favour the presidential election that is centered on one individual. What so ever, the election for provincial councils cannot be held immediately as it is trapped in a technical crisis. It is because they themselves, with Mahinda faction supporting, defeated in Parliament the delimitation report prepared by them after a delimitation process carried out to hold the

election under a new electoral system. The UNP, using this situation, continues to postpone the elections for provincial councils.

As the election for provincial councils continues to be postponed due to various reasons the time comes up to hold the presidential election. This time the presidential election would not be smooth sailing. There are many challenges confronted by everyone. This situation would also be a reason to go for a general election. No one has forgotten the demand by both Maithri and Mahinda factions for a general election during the recent conspiracy hatched to topple the government. President Maithripala Sirisena, violating the Constitution,

attempted to dissolve Parliament stating the need was for a general election. Rajapaksa faction readily fell in line. Once the conspiracy was defeated the UNP leader said they would go for a general election soon. The JVP too reiterated that it would support a proposal for a general election if it is presented in parliament after defeating the conspiracy. It was to give the people the opportunity to avoid at least to some extent the instability and anarchy that existed in the society. Also, the existing government no longer represents the mandate of the people.

However, after the defeat of the conspiracy, all of them follow a very silent policy regarding the general election. Instead, Maithri – Ranil group

talk about the election for Provincial Councils and Ranil Wickremesinghe and party talks about the presidential election. It is evident that the presidential election would not be an easy task. Hence, everybody is in a quandary.

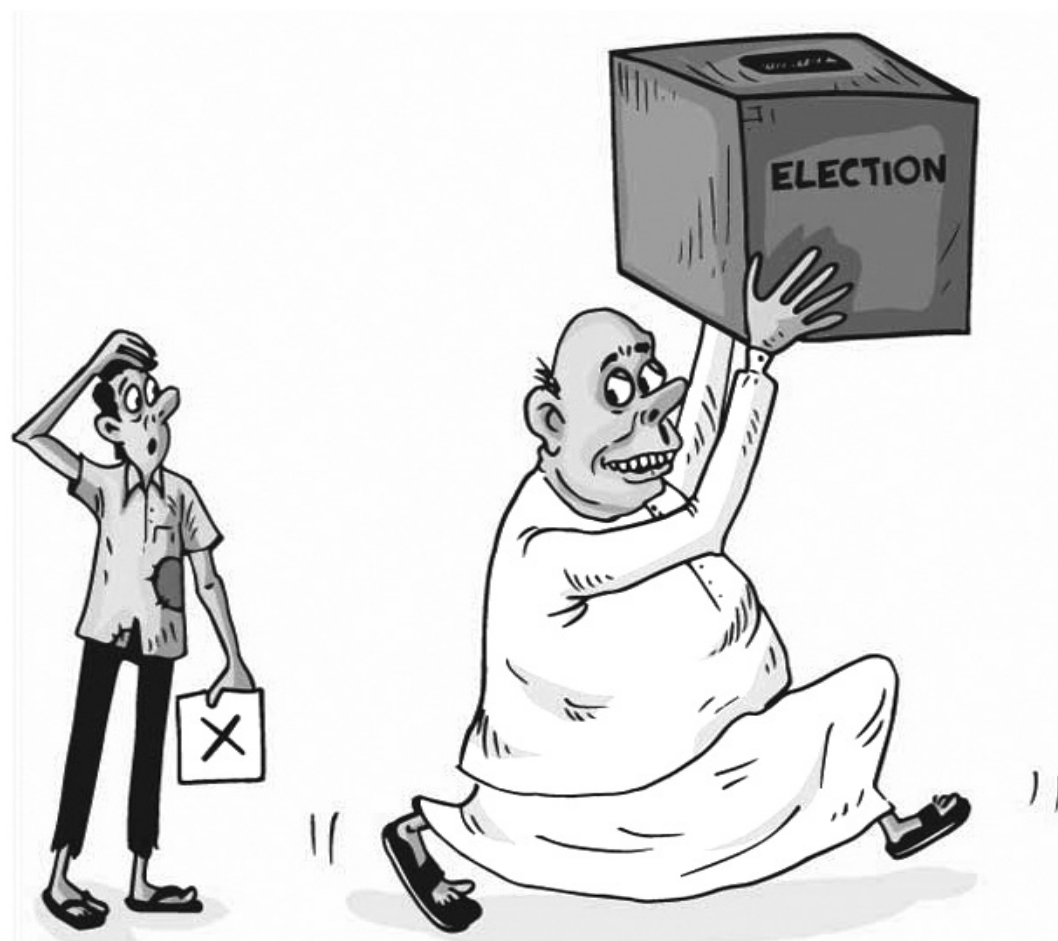
The JVP's stand on the presidential election is very clear. The JVP is for the abolishing of the dictatorial, undemocratic executive presidential system. This is why the JVP has presented in Parliament the 20th amendment to the Constitution and a series of agitations to apprise the masses regarding the need to abolish the detrimental system is being held with the collaboration of several other organizations throughout the island. However, other parties have not directly expressed their willingness to abolish the executive presidency. Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa, now, has repeated his earlier statement that the executive presidency should be abolished. However, his party and those around him have not expressed their willingness. Instead, they talk about getting ready for the presidential election. This is how the political forces are aligned at present.

The slogans and speeches Mr Maithripala Sirisena makes these days on 'eradicating drugs', 'environment

friendliness' and 'protecting children' indicates his intention of attempting for a second term. He became the President promising not to hold another presidential election and to abolish the executive presidency. As such, he has no moral right to contest a presidential election. On the other hand, he has no chance of winning the election as he is not in good terms with the UNP and also due to the division in the SLFP. The remote chance he has is to join the Mahinda Rajapaksa faction if they are prepared to accept Maithri as their candidate. However, this is a very remote possibility. Mahinda Faction has refrained from announcing who their candidate is. As such, Maithri's dream of becoming the President a second time is uncertainty. Many believe that Rajapaksas would never promote the presidential candidacy of someone other than that of a Rajapaksa.

However, many believe that Maithri might use one of his trumps to get into the fray. It is to hold the presidential election a few months before his term ends. According to the present Constitution if the presidential election is held after the official term of the incumbent president is completed, it is not compulsory for the President who ends his term to contest. In such a situation Maithri cannot compete if Rakapaksas don't favour. However, if the presidential election is announced before the official term ends Maithri has to be a candidate as the manipulation is the request by the incumbent President to be in power for another term. In such a situation Rajapaksa faction too would be in a dilemma. They have to either support Maithri or put forward a candidate of their own. Then the division of the SLFP would be further widened and all of them would be defeated. On the other hand, it would not be easy for the Mahinda faction to support Maithri. Maithri going for an early election without Mahinda's support would not be advantageous for him.

When looking at the presidential election from the point of view of Mahinda



This system cannot eradicate corruption – Thieves who protect thieves should be defeated



Comrade Sunil Handunneththi Member of the Political Bureau of the JVP

Red Power: Four years have gone by since the Central Bank bond scam was committed. However, those who were responsible for the scam have not been brought before the law. How do you explain this situation?

Comrade Handunneththi:

Despite four years have gone by since the bond scam was committed the perpetrators have not been brought before the law, not because of any deficiency in the law but because the law has not been carried out against the bond scammers. The reason is those responsible for implementing the law against the bond scammers themselves were involved in the

bond scam.

Former Governor of the Central Bank Arjun Mahendran, the main accused in the crime, is hiding in Singapore. Why can't the government get him down and produce him before the law? It is not impossible. The government protects him. President Maithripala Sirisena appointed a presidential commission. Why is the report of this commission hidden? Not because it cannot be published. If it is published it would reveal that his relatives and associates had taken money from Aloysius. Not only politicians of this government but many in Rajapaksa family company too are friendly with Arjun

Aloysius. Despite Rajapaksas shout for political advantage, they have had their portions from Aloysius! At Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa's son's wedding, all of them were together with Aloysius.

In history, politicians had contacts with the underworld, thieves and rogues. They made use of them at elections. Now it is not so. Now, politicians get together with racketeers to commit rackets and racketeers do politics. So, both these species get together to break the law or bend it. The best example is the bond scam.

Red Power: The Committee On Public Enterprises (COPE), in which you are the Chairman, presented

reports on various frauds and corruption including the report on the Central Bank bond scam. Did they go beyond the papers and was any action taken regarding them?

Comrade

Handunneththi: We cannot accept the fact that the COPE reports did not go beyond the papers they were printed on. However, we can accept the fact that expected legal action to the level of revelations made by COPE has not been taken. The reason for it is the connection the senior officials and politicians have to such frauds and corruption.

Also, we should not forget the fact that the people in our country have come to know that there is a Committee On Public Enterprises (COPE) in Parliament and it could reveal frauds and corruption only because we from the JVP hold the post of chairmanship in it. Of course, the purview of COPE is to report and reveal frauds and corruption to Parliament. However, the power to take legal or other action regarding the reports is with the executive or to the cabinet. What happens when the minister is the fraudster or if the Secretary or senior officials are involved?

COPE has already presented in Parliament 7 reports revealing frauds and corruption that have been committed in 200 state enterprises including the report on the Central Bank bond scam. However, no step has been taken regarding the revelations of the main transactions and institutions. This is due to the protection of the officials and politicians in top positions who are involved in such frauds and corruption.

Red Power: Is the sensitivity of the people regarding the frauds and corruption that has an adverse effect on the economy of the country that also makes people part a sizable amount from their meagre incomes substantial? Are they capable of identifying the political significance of this?

Comrade

Handunneththi: It is the most important question. Once Martin Luther King says, "It may well be that we will have to repent in this generation. Not merely for the vitriolic words and the violent actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence and indifference of the good people who sit around."

This quote suits frauds and corruption in our country well.

Today the common people, despite generally oppose frauds and corruption, are not aware and don't accept that such frauds and corruption are a compulsory result of the existing capitalist economic structure – the socio-economic-political system. There is another reason for it. It is the existing media practice that prepares the people's point of view to suit the capitalist corruption.

Take an example. When Basil Rajapaksa, as the accused of the corrupt transaction in connection with the Malwana land comes out of the court after the hearing the media doesn't ask him about the case but whether he is going to be a candidate for the presidential election. When Gotabhaya Rajapaksa comes out of the court after the case regarding constructing a tomb spending public money he is also asked about the presidential election. When has the media asked Ranil Wickremesinghe whether or not he protects Arjun Mahendran, the accused in the Central Bank bond scam? Instead, they ask Ranil about democracy and the 19th amendment. Then how would people get any

USA: Attempt to isolate Venezuela boomerangs



On 23rd February President of Venezuela Nicolas Maduro decided to sever all diplomatic and political ties with Colombia. As such, Colombia's embassy staff was ordered by him to leave Venezuela within 24 hours. "Out! Get out. Enough is enough," Maduro said at a rally. He took this decision after defeating the US attempt to send so-called 'humanitarian aid to Venezuela through Colombia. Venezuelan government has stated that the breaking off of relations was due to violation of all the principles and resolutions of the Charter of the United Nations. Venezuela closed its key border crossings with Colombia and Brazil after the United States and other countries in the region, in coordination with the Venezuelan opposition, declared their plan to deliver aid into Venezuela, which is seen as a possible first step toward a foreign invasion.

After President Hugo Chavez' death in 2013 the US intensified its attempt to topple 'Chavezian' type of government Maduro and the majority of the people in Venezuela want to exist. The US plan was to breakdown the economy in Venezuela first and make use of the pressure in the county to topple Maduro's government. In 2015 Barak Obama imposed economic sanctions on Venezuela. Donald Trump increased sanctions. The target was to breakdown oil production and export and deteriorate the financial situation in the country further. With this the oil production in Venezuela dwindled. The effect it had on Venezuela was so drastic that Alfred D. Zayas the UN Independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable International Order says the US sanctions on the country are illegal and could amount to "crimes against humanity" under international law.

(Venezuela is a country without food security. It has to import food and medicine the people need).

However, this did not breakdown Maduro administration. As a result Donald Trump had to step up his ugly move of sanctions. At a speech in Florida President Trump had announced "the days of socialism and communism are numbered in Venezuela" This is how an incident, the type of 'colour revolution' carried out in the Middle East, was created.

After Maduro's swear in for his second term on 10th January Trump made a statement formally recognizing Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó as the legitimate "interim president" of Venezuela. On the day Trump made this statement the opposition in Venezuela took to the streets and demanded Maduro to step down from the Presidency. They announced an interim government and asked troops to defect. On 22nd January US Vice-President Mike Pence released a video message encouraged people in Venezuela to take to the streets to drive away Maduro. Next day, on 23rd January Juan Guido, the leader of Venezuela's opposition-controlled national assembly declared himself interim president of Venezuela. With this the European Union, Canada, Columbia, Brazil accepted him as the interim president of Venezuela. However, China, Russia, Turkey, Syria, Iran as well as many countries in Organization of American States (OAS) accepted Maduro as the President. Not even 13rs of member countries in the UNO have expressed their support to Juan Guido and it is considered as a severe defeat for the USA.

On the other hand despite rallies and protest marches from both Maduro's faction and the opposition were held, it was seen that the support the opposition

had in 2013 or 2017 had diminished and Maduro has gained a lot of mass support.

As economic, political and diplomatic schemes have failed the only option the US is left with is a military action. Trump had claimed that he could use military force to help Washington-backed Juan Guido's opposition to topple the democratically-elected government of Maduro. Many suspect the programme to bring in 'humanitarian aid' across Columbian and Brazilian borders is to assess the 'solution'. The US stating that if they fail to distribute 'aid' across borders they would think of dropping it from air could be a forerunner for a military intervention. The US had made all preparations for such a military intervention. However, Russia, China and Cuba have declared they would respond drastically if such an intervention takes place. Russia, meanwhile, warned the US not to intervene militarily in Venezuela, saying US support for Guaido was a "path to lawlessness and bloodshed". China, meanwhile, opposed external intervention in Venezuelan domestic affairs, and called for international society to create good conditions adding that China supports efforts made by the Venezuelan government for national sovereignty, independence and stability.

Stating Venezuela's current political crisis as "a failed imperialist coup... fabricated in Washington, Cuba accuses Trump of trying to install a "puppet" president in the country.

In such an atmosphere, Maduro rejected so-called 'humanitarian' aid from the US and closed down its borders with Columbia and Brazil. The food and medicine said to be worth US\$20 million were to enter Venezuela on 23rd February. However, the International Red Cross has declined to participate in the Washington's controversial humanitarian aid plan to Venezuela. United Nations has likewise raised objections to Washington's "politicised" aid plan.

On 23rd February, Venezuela intercepted what was said to be "humanitarian aid" crossing the border from Columbia. Upon inspection, it was discovered that the trucks were transporting weapons & barbed wire for radical opposition forces.

The 'aid intended to be brought across Columbian border was blocked and more aid had been brought to the border with Brazil. Thousands of people supporting Maduro have assembled at the borders holding anti-imperialist rallies and demonstrations.

However, the US attempt to get international recognition to its puppet Juan Guaido as the President of Venezuela and topple Maduro administration by creating financial instability by imposing various sanctions doesn't seem to be succeeding. The imperialist intervention has strengthened parties supporting Maduro administration and intensified anti-US sentiment among the masses.

Internationally too the US has got isolated due to its Venezuelan stunt. At the recent UN Security Council hearing on Venezuela, the US was denounced by South Africa for "trampling upon the law and constitutional rights of Venezuela" and for "taking away the basic right of the people of Venezuela to determine their own future". Bolivia accused the US of breaking the most fundamental laws of non-intervention in other countries and violating Venezuela's national sovereignty. Russia summed up the mood, describing Guaidó as an "imposter" and that the US was making a "mockery" of the constitutional rights of Venezuela, noting that the US' humanitarian aid stunt would "in any other part of the world be classed as terrorism."

Maithri-Ranil bond is making Sri Lanka a backyard of USA it should be stopped immediately

President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe are secretly signing defence agreements with the USA turning Sri Lanka into a backyard of the USA says the National Organizer of the JVP Comrade Bimal Rathnayaka MP and emphasized that the vile attempt should be immediately halted.

He said the Prime Minister and the President have taken steps to remove from relevant discussions even the defence experts who point out the destructive nature of such agreements. The agreements have been presented to the cabinet by the President as the Minister of Defense and he should be held directly responsible for the situation added Comrade Bimal Rathnayaka.

He said this at a press conference held at the head office of the JVP yesterday (3rd). The JVP Member of the Western Provincial Council Comrade Lakshman Nipunarachchi too was present.

Speaking further Comrade Bimal Rathnayaka said, "In March 2017 then-Defense Secretary of Mahinda Rajapaksa regime and the US Ambassador signed a defence agreement to provide services by the Sri Lanka government for US military activities. At the time of the signing of the agreement, the JVP opposed the agreement in Parliament as well as outside it. We said the agreement was signed by two US citizens. Gotabhaya Rajapaksa was a US citizen at the time he signed the agreement. According to this agreement, the government of Sri Lanka should provide all services needed by US troops if they are involved in any military action in the Asian region. The



agreement was signed secretly. The relevant agreement violates the objectives of the Non-Aligned Movement as well as the non-aligned foreign policy Sri Lanka has signed. The USA is a country which is involved in military action at any time anywhere in the world. There are ample examples of countries destroyed by war carried out by the USA. Also, it would not be possible to avoid Sri Lanka being hated by other countries for providing services for the US military.

The agreement signed in 2007 expired on 6th March 2017 after its 10-year term ended. At that moment we of the JVP making a special statement emphasized to the government not to extend the agreement. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe promised in Parliament to inform Parliament if a decision is taken to extend the agreement. However, the US defence agreement has been again secretly extended.

How speedily and willingly the government has responded to this could be understood from the letters exchanged. On 23rd February 2017, the US Embassy informs the government of Sri Lanka about the expiry of the agreement. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs responds the same day expressing the willingness of the government to extend the agreement.

The President of our country always speaks about sovereignty. However, he is the person who presented the cabinet paper on 10th June 2017 to extend the defence agreement. The difference between the agreement signed by Gotabhaya and the one presented by the President is the unavailability of a time frame for the latter one. What is the right Maithri and Ranil have to sign an agreement to supply services for the US military for eternity? Their mandate is for only five years. During the discussions to extend the agreement in 2017

Sri Lanka's defence experts have pointed out the destructiveness of such an agreement. What President Maithripala Sirisena has done was to remove the relevant expert from the discussions. Subsequently, the agreement was signed. The President yielded before the USA and signed the agreement. The Prime Minister lied to the country.

We have come to know that another agreement other than the one that exists is to be signed. The USA has located military bases all over the world. Also, it has signed a large number of defence agreements with many countries. The new agreement to be signed with Sri Lanka is one of them. We came to know about an agreement called the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA). We asked about this in Parliament. As the answer, we were told that an agreement has been signed in 1995 to provide US troops and civilians attached to

the United States Department of War various services with diplomatic privileges for military matters. Sri Lanka has signed an agreement composed by the US. It was like placing the thumb mark. However, the country was not aware of it. The agreement had been signed two months into Chandrika Kumaratunga government. The Presidents in our country, despite pledging to defend the country and bragging about their patriotism, sign agreements that give in to the USA. All Presidents- Chandrika Kumaratunga, Mahinda Rajapaksa and Maithripala Sirisena – signed such capitulating agreements. These Presidents have acted according to this agreement for 24 years.

On 28th August 2018, the USA writes asking the government to enforce the defence agreement signed in 1995 and extend it. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has admitted it. When this agreement

This system cannot... >>> Page 04

sensitivity regarding politicians' involvement in frauds and corruption? Obstructing avenues for people to identify the significance of the political connection of these matters is a move the capitalist politics does intentionally. This is made available by capitalist media affiliations as their class interest to the owners of the capital.

Currently, institutions such as Sri Lankan Airlines, the Port Authority, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, Ceylon Electricity Board, National Water Supply and Drainage Board, the Department of Excise, the Customs, the Department of Inland Revenue have become extremely corrupt institutions. It could be said that the amount of tax money that is being destroyed in these institutions with the direct involvement of politicians is more than 60% of the whole state revenue. However, there is no self-orientation by the masses to oppose or take action against such moves. It is the left movement that has the responsibility of making the masses aware that there is no other way of cleaning up these institutions other than changing the whole existing political system. The leading role of such a task has to be borne by the JVP.

Red Power: Recently, the Auditor General pointed out that nearly 1/10th of the money obtained as loans by the country has been transformed into assets. It means the share of corruption is 9/10th. Can a country go forward in this way? What is the responsibility of the masses?

Comrade Handunneththi: What is the political essence of what the Auditor General has pointed out? Loans are necessary for a country not to pay back loans that cannot be settled. Loans are needed to produce new value to the economy. Only such a new value would become an economic value. When loans are obtained to settle loans on one had loans become an income. On the other hand, when loans are settled it becomes expenditure. Only the balance sheet becomes larger. However, the loss due to the high interest and the loss due to the depreciation of the rupee gets added to the debt. How did a country that was not indebted to the world but had millions of pounds as deposits in the Treasury when the British gave up the direct colonial structure in 1948 become a country in which foreign and domestic loan account exceeds trillions within 71 years? Would that happen if money obtained as

loans had been spent on investments that generate economic values? Never. Loans are used in the past as well as in the present mainly to pay instalments and interest for loans obtained and also to carry out various election projects to swell up their images.

The best example is the Hambantota Harbour that was built with a loan from China. A harbour is built with a loan. Unable to settle the loan the harbour was handed over to China for 99 years. Now, it is said that China had stated that the loan should not be mixed up with the investment and the loan should be settled. Now the government is in a quandary. The people are not aware of any of this. Even if they know if they say, "Our rogue is good for us" no change could be brought about.

Thieving – corruption could be stopped only if people change. This system cannot be changed if people ask for thieves at elections and go behind politicians who rob and plunder. The main responsibility of the people is to resolve to change the corrupt political system. The minimum they could do is to stand with the camp that rejects the corrupt. Then many things that have not changed could be changed.

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was signed in 1995 the politics in countries such as Russia, China and India were different. However, currently, there is a trade war going on between the USA and China. According to the agreement in '95 Asia was a principal war zone. A board of consultants in the US Defense Department has proposed to the US government to reinforce all military agreements that have been signed and make adjustments to them in a manner to give more advantage to the USA. This is why such proposals come up. According to this agreement, US troops and civilians attached to the United States Department of War are to be provided with various services with diplomatic privileges according to the Vienna Convention adopted in 1961. Also, all of them should be allowed to enter Sri Lanka with their identity cards only without passports. This is a proposal to make Sri Lanka a backyard of the USA. Not even the state leader of our country can enter the US with only the identity card. Despite the Commander of our Army is not able to go to the US with only the identity card, an ordinary US soldier would be able to enter Sri Lanka showing his identity card. Also, US troops in uniform can come to Sri Lanka with any weapon. If they commit any crime in Sri Lanka they wouldn't be dealt with our law but they would be dealt under the US law. The goods and services bought in Sri Lanka by US troops, personnel of the US Department of War and all those engaged in supplying services for the US military will be exempted from taxes. They could import and export anything without bothering about the import and export regulations in Sri Lanka. The ships or aircrafts brought down by the US military cannot be subjected to inspection by Sri Lankan authorities. It is such an agreement that has been signed in 1995.

The USA signs such military agreements with wretched states in the world. Recently, such an agreement was signed with the Maldives. As the JVP, we consider that extending the two agreements would be equal to establishing a US military base in Sri Lanka. Though a military base is not established officially, the government of Sri Lanka is under obligation to provide all the facilities needed to maintain a military base. The agreements compel Sri Lanka to take the side of the US in any war created by it. Any country failing to oblige would be attacked using any excuse.

Hence, we emphasize that governments in Sri Lanka have no authority to sign such defence agreements. Once these agreements are signed revoking them is no easy matter. Sri Lanka becoming a US military base through these agreements cannot be avoided. We demand the government not to sign or extend such capitulating agreements. Also, we call upon the people in the country to rally to oppose such vile moves."

Presidential election...**>>> Page 03**

faction, they too would confront several issues. The first is Mahinda cannot contest the next presidential election. As such, there is nothing for him to get from a presidential election. The next issue is deciding who the candidate will be. Already, various conflicts have cropped up based on the candidature. All three Rajapaksas – Gotabhaya, Basil and Chamal have expressed their 'readiness' to compete. Various views have been expressed by various groups in the faction. There is a group that opposes anyone other than a Rajapaksa being the candidate. Kumara Welgama is at the forefront of this group. As a result, Mahinda faction has still not been able to name their candidate which is a disadvantage for an election contest of this magnitude. It is clear that Mahinda has second thoughts about losing power to especially another Rajapaksa. This could be the reason why Mahinda now talks about abolishing executive presidency.

On the other hand, the presidential election is a challenge for Mr Ranil Wickremesinghe as well. He would get the first challenge from inside his own party. It is the view 'Ranil cannot'. Opposition to his candidature would prop up within his own party as Ranil could not be the candidate in 2010 as well as in 2015. As there is a group already in the party that proposes Sajith instead

of Ranil, there is a challenge for his leadership as well. If for instance some other is put forward as the candidate from the party, it would be the end of Ranil's leadership in the party. Also, he would have to give up his leadership if he contests and gets defeated. There is no possibility for Ranil to win at a future presidential election. The UNP can never win a presidential election on its own. They don't have a common front or a common candidate at the next presidential election.

All these indicate the presidential election will be one that is arduous and challenging one for all capitalist leaders. As such, what should be done is either to abolish executive presidency or hold a general election before the presidential election. When taking into consideration giving the people the opportunity to elect a new government, having the general election first is logical. As such, the task of the opposition and all democratic forces, within this critical period of unstable power, is either to adopt the motion to abolish executive presidency in Parliament. For this, forces that are in favour of abolishing executive power should be lined up. If this fails, an intense pressure should be applied for an immediate general election with abolishing executive presidency as the main slogan. Whatever of this is fulfilled, it would be a victory for the people.



Demanding punishment for Central Bank bond scammers



Against USA intervention in Venezuela



Strengthening ties with Communist Party of Bangladesh



'For love without a price' - celebrating Valentine's Day



Struggle on behalf of Minor Export Crop farmers



JVP Leader gets warm welcome from estate community

The rulers who have come to power in this country have not fulfilled the promises they have made to the people when asking for their votes says the Leader of the JVP Comrade Anura Dissanayaka.

He said this while visiting Nuwara-eliya District to discuss issues of the estate sector employees and decide a plan of action in order to get solutions to their issues. Comrade Anura Dissanayaka is scheduled to visit several areas to meet estate employees during his visit to the district which took place from 1st until the 3rd of March.

Speaking at a meeting held in a tea estate the JVP Leader said the rulers who have come to power in the country have not fulfilled the promises they have made to the people. He said all that they do is rob people's money and the era of such rulers should be brought to an end.

He said the issues of farmers, fishermen and workers have been utterly neglected and the estate workers are the most affected due to the mismanagement of present and past governments.

Comrade Anura Dissanayaka pointed out that signing an MoU regarding wages is a betrayal of the estate workers by Tamil politicians.

The JVP Leader for Nuwara-eliya District, Councilor of Ambagamuwa Pradeshiya Sabha Comrade Manjula Suraweera Asst. Secretary of All Ceylon Estate Workers' Union Miss Krishnan Selvi were also present.

The estate community was pleased to receive Comrade Anura Dissanayaka and he was warmly welcomed by the workers.



Several donations to schools in the North from JVP

Measures had been taken by the National Organizer of the JVP, Comrade Bimal Rathnayaka MP to present equipment worth about Rs. 600,000 to school children in Jaffna, Point Pedro, Chavakachcheri and Kayts to help in their education and for recreational activities.

The JVP Organizer for the Northern Province Comrade Ramalingam Chandrasekar together with JVP Organizers Comrade Sri Skanda Nadesan and Comrade Krishna Darshan were present at the ceremonies held on the 13th February.

A set of western instruments worth Rs. 100,000 for the band was presented to Shri Ganesh Vidyalaya at Pungudutivu in Jaffna while Church at Mandigai in Point Pedro was repaired at a cost of Rs.200,000.

Also, Guruswamy Vidyalaya at Kaithady in Chavakachcheri and The Community Center at Kaithady North were repaired at a cost of Rs.100,000 and a children's park was constructed spending Rs.200,000 at Paruthipattu village in Kayts.