

STOP the witch hunt JVP warns the Govt.

The Rajapaksa government, lead by the new President, has begun sending out warning signals as soon as the government was formed. The few incidents that have occurred have revealed the works of the government's suppressive machinery says the Member of the Political Bureau of the JVP Parliamentarian Sunil Handunneththi and emphasizes that the JVP would not hesitate to take the side of the people and struggle against suppressive moves of the government.

Comrade Sunil Handunneththi made these observations at a press conference held at the head office of the JVP on the 29th to explain the stand of the JVP regarding the new situation that is developing in the country.

Speaking further, Comrade Handunneththi said, "Demoting CID Director Shani Abeysekera, the incident that prompted Nishantha de Silva to flee the country, pressure on social media networks, abduction of a Switzerland Embassy employee

indicate that the white van culture has come back and that the shadows of Rajapaksa repressive machinery are again 'blackening' our society.

The main slogan used by the new President to come to power was national protection and secured country. We accept the mandate given by the people. However, the mandate was given not to threaten and repress those who investigate against Rajapaksas and their supporters, appoint their lackeys to various positions and not to shelve investigations against them. Not even the religious leaders who strived to bring these rulers

to power and the people who voted for them would have thought the white van culture would haunt the land so soon.

The rulers have already begun the process to repress the officers who carried out investigations against them, distort evidence and force withdrawal of evidence.

The officers, who had to flee the country and who were transferred were those who carried out investigations against frauds and corruption committed by the previous Rajapaksa government as well as that of Ranil – Maithri government. Now, investigating against the

thieves has been set aside, and a process has commenced to take revenge from such officers. It is the officers who apprehend thieves that have to flee the country now, not the thieves. What would happen to the Central Bank scam now? Isn't what's happening now a signal to stop investigations against the perpetrators? Don't the moves taken at present ask the investigating officers to become puppets of the government or face the consequences? If the politicians are innocent regarding the charges against them, they could, without any fear, face the charges against them and allow

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The hunt has begun...

Behind attractive concepts such as 'town beautification', 'simple natured President' of the present administration exist the beginning of the hunt of the opponents. This move has begun against the officers of the CID and other institutions related to the judiciary who carried out investigations regarding frauds, corruption and crimes of the earlier Rajapaksa regime. Already, a large number of officers including the head of the CID Shani Abeysekera have been banned from travelling overseas. Already, Inspector Nishantha Silva who was the Officer-In-Charge of the Organized Crimes Investigation Division of the CID has been named as an 'LTTE spy'. This labelling has been done not after a formal investigation or by any authorized institution but those fraudsters whose investigations were carried out by these officers. (It should be mentioned that we have no intention of whitewashing Nishantha Silva or any other officer.) However, when looking at what is happening in the country, it seems that the hunter is being hunted now.

During the earlier Rajapaksa regime several crimes including financial frauds were committed but no one has been punished for such offences. The now-defeated UNP government was involved in several financial frauds, but no legal action has been taken against the offenders. For, the law was not carried out regarding rulers.

The gentlemen who were connected to the old administrations and were accused of various offences such as financial frauds and crimes should face legal procedures and prove their innocence if they are not guilty. It could be done by allowing the Attorney General's Department to carry out its functions freely and allowing the officers who conducted the investigations to complete their tasks. However, the moves carried out by those who are charged with such frauds and crimes are different. The officers who conducted the investigations are hunted first, then the witnesses will be intimidated, and evidence will be revised. The process will continue until the Attorney General amends the charges. There is a saying in our villages that the hunter can change 'goraka' (gamboges) into game (flesh of hunted animals) and vice versa. The incidents that take place now indicate that this is such a period.

There should be perpetrators relevant to the well-known murders and financial frauds that were committed during the earlier Rajapaksa regime. Similarly, there should be owners for the large scale financial frauds that were committed during the UNP regime. However, no murderers or fraudsters have been found even after several years. What does it mean? It means either the perpetrators are above the law or they are regulating the law.

No official would carry out investigations in connection with crimes committed by stalwarts of a government hereafter if such investigating officials are hunted down as soon as a new government comes to power. When the people in the country, on behalf of the political party they sympathized with, support such moves, the situation would become more critical. It is the general public that would be vulnerable. For, in such a situation, the rulers would not hesitate or fear to commit crimes. It is a dire situation. People, whatever their political ideology is, turning a blind eye for crimes committed by authorities or allowing such perpetrators to go scot-free does not suit a civilized society, and it is the general public that will have to face the consequences.

Lastly, it should be emphasized that the move where 'goraka' is changed to 'game' and vice versa is advantageous to the criminals within the administration only. It would not benefit the public or the country and the people will experience the consequences only when the criminal comes knocking at their doors, but it would be too late then.

Is the secured country promised by present govt. only for favourites?



A secured country is not one where the disliked are suppressed and the favourites are given the opportunities and privileges says the JVP Member of Parliament and Chairman of COPE Sunil Handunneththi.

He said this at a press conference held at the head

office of the JVP at Pelawatta.

Mr Handunneththi pointed out that transferring CID Director SSP Shani Abeysekera, Abducting and questioning an employee of the Swiss Embassy, Inspector Nishantha Silva, who investigated cases under ex-President Mahinda Rajapaksa, fleeing the country with his family, summoning the Editor of Voice Tube to CID, enacting special conditions for a group of CID officers if they want to go abroad and several other arbitrary and dictatorial moves not keeping with the mandate given by the people.

NPP all ready to fulfil the task of the righteous opposition



The UNP has no ability to become the real opposition to the present government, but the NPP is prepared to fulfil the task of the opposition says Comrade Dr Nalinda Jayatissa MP.

Speaking at an event held in Kalutara recently Comrade Dr

Nalinda Jayatissa said President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has 1825 days to rule the country. He said, "As a far-seeing president, he should not allow those who have made a big noise to dictate him nor be allowed to be misled by wrong advice from those narrow-minded miscreants who would surround him for power. His responsibility is to become the president who has won the trust of all at the end of five years.

All we see about the UNP is that they have fallen to their usual power struggle. At the election, 5.5 million people voted for Mr Sajith Premadasa. However, he has blamed, especially people in Hambantota for not voting for him despite distributing various goods among them. His responsibility is not running away from these people. They trusted him, especially the Tamil and Muslim masses who voted for him. However, he has turned his back to them. This is not leadership quality.

The UNP, Messrs Ranil Wickremesinghe and Sajith Premadasa cannot become the real opposition to the present government. All this time they have struggled to get the party leadership, to become the leader of the opposition and to become the candidate of the party only.

Hence, we tell the people in this country that having any hope for the UNP that is splintering and deteriorating to do well at the forthcoming general election is futile. What is necessary for the country is a strong opposition that could direct effective criticism against President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's government and get benefits to the people and the country. NPP is prepared to fulfil the task of strong opposition."

New govt. trudging along the old path of crises

The presidential election ended with victory to Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa. They have already formed a temporary government and have taken power into their hands. According to provisions in the Constitution the government may be dissolved at the beginning of March next year, and a general election will be held. They could win the election as they have already won the presidential election. They would ask for a strong government (a 2/3rd majority) at the general election. Hence, they would be cautious during the next 3 to 4 months so that they would not receive any resistance from the masses. When a new government has been formed, the masses too would see everything the government does as 'good things' like when a new bride has been brought home. However, before long the masses will realize the reality due to the already existing heap of crises the new government is confronted with, and though it looks new, it is composed of the same old hands.

At the presidential election, the main strategy utilized by both the UNP and the SLPP was to get votes using terror psychosis. Policies and promises came far behind. Sajith and his group used 'Gota terror' while Gotabaya Rajapaksa group pointed out there was a danger to the country and used 'protect the country' as their main slogan. It is this strategy that brought 90% - 80% votes to Sajith in the North and the East and 60% - 70% votes to Gota in majority



Sinhalese areas. It was also the main reason why the NPP polled fewer votes.

However, in the long run, the new administration is confronted with a cluster of issues and challenges. They do not seem to have the ability to overcome them. The election result has politically divided the North and the East and other areas in the country with a communal line. The present administration would not be able to revise this and build national unity. Instead, they, who function within a bogus Sinhalese Buddhist state concept, would deepen this line. Sajith would never be able to overwhelm the communal politics that would emerge. As such, the banner of national unity would undoubtedly belong to the NPP.

On the hand, the present administration does not have a clear solution for the gigantic economic crisis the country is confronted with. They would have to get another loan to pay debt installment of Rs one trillion that has to be paid in 2020. The result would



It seems that Gotabaya wishes to break loose from 'Mahinda doctrine' and go on an independent path. When all Rajapaksas adorn the so-called Kurahan shawl, Gota has abandoned it and has shown he is not another Rajapaksa. Despite these being effortless moves, they indicate conflicts within the family.

be that the debt trap would get tighter and tighter. Also, the government will have to do something to show the people within the next few months before the election. Constructions, town beautification and other glamorization, are moves that cost money and do not bring any income. As such, the

government will not be able to plod on a path without heaping the people with the burden of the economic crisis. The increase in the prices of commodities such as wheat flour, rice, cement gives a signal regarding future living conditions of our people.

It seems a crisis in the family too has surfaced with the victory of Gotabaya Rajapaksa as the President. It is between the presidential powers of Gotabaya and Mahinda's political stature. Mahinda Rajapaksa is the former President; the Leader of the SLPP. He is the attraction for the party members and sympathizers. As such, he would never like to be below his younger brother. Mahinda Rajapaksa's vision on power does not allow him to be a second to anyone. As such, the conflict between the 'President' and the 'Prime Minister' will contribute considerably to decide the path their government will take. The expressions on Mahinda Rajapaksa's face when accepting the temporary premiership indicated this conflict.

Also, it seems this power conflict exists in certain decisions the society sees as 'good decisions' taken by the government. Many believe that the decision not to display photographs of the President, the Prime Minister and Ministers at state institutions was taken as a result of Mahinda Rajapaksa's dislike of being a second to anyone. Also, the removal of cutouts and posters indicate Mahinda's dislike of Gota being more popular as well as Gota's dislike of having his cutouts and posters below that of Mahinda.

Certain moves carried out by the Gotabaya Rajapaksa administration seem to have been taken against Mahinda. The moves such as removing photographs of state leaders in state institutions, removing cutouts displayed on roads, reducing the number of back-up vehicles, rejecting the use of President's House or the Temple Trees question Mahinda's past. For, these moves, though rejected by Gota, existed on a large scale during Mahinda Rajapaksa regime.

It seems

We are prepared to generate life to a strong opposition

Comrade Anura Kumara Dissanayaka
Presidential Candidate of the National People's Power



Red Power: Is the presidential election 2019 a breakdown of people's aspirations or only a temporary retreat?

Comrade Anura Dissanayake:

The results of the presidential election show an inevitable recession. Usually, a presidential election becomes mainly a collision between two camps. What was distinct this time was the two camps went beyond their power struggle to transform into two political camps to a certain extent. One camp presented itself as a saviour of the country while the other posed as the camp against dictatorship. As such, the intensity of the power struggle and its politics would not give a fair chance to a third force. However, this is a situation particular only to presidential elections.

This situation could be definitely taken towards victory. There are several political victories that the election statistics do not show. We have built the broadest force in the history of our party. We have built the National People's Power and have been able to stabilize it throughout the country. As such, we were, as a party, able to carry out throughout the country dialogue on building the country. They remain as future investments for our cause.

Red Power: the election results show that the Sri Lankan society has polarized. How will this situation affect the future of the country?

Comrade Anura

Dissanayake: Yes, especially this election has polarized society. A group that drags the country towards communalism, extremism and religious fanaticism calling it 'saving the country' has been created. It is interpreted as a camp that is being built to counter Tamil and Muslim nationalisms. Also, the other camp too has been polarized to a certain extent against communalism, extremism and religious fanaticism that is being built. This is what election results indicate.

A country is united not only from the land. We acknowledge a country as united only if the people belonging to different nationalities, religions and cultures are united. We know that there are various religions, nationalities and cultures in our country. Our country can go forward only if there is harmony between different nationalities, religions and cultures. Then only a country can exist. A country cannot exist as a whole when there are various divisions in the country. The signal the votes polled by Gotabaya as well as Sajith gives is not a very healthy one.

As such, this sharp division could bring in ominous destruction. The arbitrary, communal and extremist conduct of the members of this group as soon as they came to power indicates this. A country can exist only if its people are united. As such, the present polarization would have a very detrimental effect on the future of our country.

Red Power: The new President has appointed his

staff and the cabinet. More state ministers and deputy ministers have been appointed. Some have started their lamentations. What is your opinion regarding this?

Comrade Anura

Dissanayake: Their political culture is especially based on various privileges, perks and inducements. As such, a ministerial portfolio in any of these two camps is not responsibility to serve the people or having knowledge or experience about the subjects he or she is expected to possess. Instead, they have become the avenues for the kith and kin to have privileges, perks and benefits. It is why this has become a crisis. In the beginning, some started talking with enthusiasm regarding the appointment of a small cabinet. What has happened now? The number of ministries is increasing. Also, there is no scientific basis in allocating subjects for the ministries. One is given the state ministry of power while another is appointed as the State Minister of for Energy. It is merely to gratify individuals. The cabinet of ministers has become a means of appeasing. It is a continuation of the old political culture they have been following.

Red Power: What will be the 'new journey' of the 'new administration' look like when the country is at the brim of a deep economic crisis?

Comrade Anura

Dissanayake: Every leader who came to power in Sri Lanka attempted to show that he or she was different.

We know how certain individuals, who began their journey by signing with the ballpoint pen, ended their term. We especially saw appointments made by Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa after getting elected as the President. P.B. Jayasundara was appointed the Secretary to the President and Kamal Gunaratna as the Defense Secretary. These appointments give us a hint about the future administration. P.B. Jayasundara was responsible for the economy of the country for several years. He directed the economy for nearly 20 years. He should be held responsible for the economic precipice the country has fallen to. However, it seems he has been given the responsibility of the economy again. The post of Defense Secretary is an extraordinary responsibility. What is needed today for the country is not defence with a military angle but protection as a society. However, their vision for the security of the country is a militarist one. The cabinet is full of old names. Although their term ends in three or four months, appointing more than 50 ministers indicates they are plodding along the same old path.

Meanwhile, he has shown changes inherent to him. Several tax reforms have been proposed as they are at a threshold of a general election. However, we do not consider them as higher socio-economic reforms that could take the country forward. Despite making short-term moves on the surface to show off, it would not be possible to find answers to the crisis they are confronted with. Especially, there are pressures such as

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Chagos Islands: a vital issue in UK election 2019



The 6-month deadline given to the United Kingdom by the United Nations to end its colonial administration over the Chagos Islands belonging to Mauritius ended on 22nd November. However, the UK did not take any steps to hand over the island to Mauritius.

The United Nations general assembly

overwhelmingly backed a motion on 23rd May 2019 by African countries condemning Britain's occupation of the Chagos Islands in the Indian Ocean.

The 116-6 vote left the UK diplomatically isolated. The motion set a six-month deadline for Britain to withdraw from the Chagos island chain so that the islands could be reunified

with Mauritius. It endorsed the advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in February, calling on the UK to relinquish its hold on the territory in order to complete the process of decolonization.

According to the motion, Britain had to withdraw its colonial rule from the Chagos island within six

months. Six countries, including the UK, the USA voted against the motion while 56 countries including France and Germany abstained.

When Mauritius islands that were a British colony were given independence in 1965, Britain took measures to separate Chagos from Mauritius and retained the archipelago. Later the UK leased Diago Garcia, the largest island in the archipelago, to the USA to maintain a military camp. Accordingly, about 2000 locals who lived in Diago Garcia were evicted, and a massive US airbase was established. During the cold war, when the Soviet Union and the Socialist camp existed,

It was strategically important US base. Later, the US used the base during wars against Afghanistan and Iraq, and after the September 2001 attack, it was used as an interrogation centre of the CIA. 'Al-Jazeera' had once reported that 'the committee had seen evidence that Diago Garcia, an atoll in the Indian Ocean, had been used for extraordinary rendition "with the full cooperation" of the UK.'

In February 2019 the International Court of Justice (ICJ) found the separation of Chagos Islands from Mauritius in 1965 was in contravention of international law and urged the UK to end "its administration of the Chagos Islands as rapidly as possible." However, the UK refused to act according to the decision, and the issue had to be taken to the UNO.

The African Union issuing an announcement after the 6-month deadline

came to an end called on Britain to withdraw from the Chagos Islands and end its "continued colonial administration." However, in response, Britain's Foreign Office states, "The UK has no doubt as to our sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT), which has been under continuous British sovereignty since 1814" and states Britain does not recognize Mauritius' sovereignty claim. However, when Diago Garcia island was leased to the USA, the people who lived on the island were deported to Mauritius.

Meanwhile, this issue is being discussed in the UK election to be held soon. The Leader of the Labour Party in the UK Jeremy Corbyn states if he is elected PM, he would renounce British sovereignty of the Chagos Islands and respect the UN vote calling for the archipelago to be handed back to Mauritius.

US set up puppet regime in Bolivia



The conspiracy moves carried out with the support of the USA against the anti-imperialist, progressive administration in Bolivia is continuing. President Evo Morales who won the presidential election held on 20th October, has taken political asylum in Mexico.

Despite the fact that Morales won the presidential election, the rightist opposition

supported by the USA opposed the results of the election and carried out agitations. As the opposition received the support of the security forces, Morales had to leave the country on 10th November and seek political asylum in Mexico. Besides the rightist forces pressurized the leadership of Morales' Movement Toward Socialism party to relinquish their positions. On 12th November

Jeanine Áñez was sworn in as interim President without allowing the members of Movement Toward Socialism party to enter parliament and also without a quorum.

With this situation groups supporting Morales took to the streets, closed down about 83 roads. Security forces attacked these groups killing more

than 30 protestors and infusing more than 715. Also, workers in various institutions have begun strike action against the rightist regime.

Evo Morales won three elections, starting in 2006, and was the President for almost 14 years. He was the first Indigenous President in Bolivia. During his term, the ordinary people were given many benefits while Bolivia became the country with the fastest economic development in Latin America and according to the UN "Bolivia Closes 2018 among the Highest Economic Growth Rates."

Jeanine Áñez, self-proclaimed interim President of Bolivia, has quickly changed Bolivia's foreign policy. Diplomatic relations with Cuba and Venezuela were abandoned, announced Bolivia's exit from the Alliance for the Peoples of Our America, a union of socialist nations based in Caracas was announced. She also announced that she recognizes the opposition leader of Venezuela Juan Guaidó as the President of Venezuela. Bolivia also appointed an ambassador to the USA after 11 years.

Breaking down of anti-imperialist, progressive Evo Morales administration in Bolivia is the result of the latest US intervention in the region. The USA has been involved in breaking down several anti-imperialist, progressive administrations that were elected by the People in Latin America.

Govt. on its usual path of witch hunting!

“The National People’s Power (NPP) vehemently condemns the moves by the new government of deploying state machinery to hunt down and terrorize opponents no sooner than they came to power and utilizing the henchmen to justify such suppressions.”

This was stated by the General Secretary of the JVP Comrade Tilvin Silva addressing a media conference held at the head office of the JVP on the 4th of this month to explain the stand of the NPP on the repressive and undemocratic process the present government is following.

Comrade Tilvin Silva said as soon as Gotabaya Rajapaksa was elected the President, the Army was given police powers in a special gazette, alternative media was attacked, a news was reported that an official in Swedish Embassy was abducted and pressure applied on CID officers who carried out investigations regarding financial frauds and other crimes committed during the earlier Rajapaksa regime.

Speaking further Comrade General Secretary said, “We, as the NPP, are having a media conference to announce the stand of the NPP on the repressive process the government is adopting as soon as it came to power.

Throughout the election campaign, there was a fear in the society as Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his group had, in the past, carried out moves to undermine democracy. People thought democracy would be jeopardized if Rajapaksas came to power.

Throughout the election campaign Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his group assured to the people that they would defend democracy, would never resort to suppressive measures and there would not be any space for ‘white van’ culture.

They said they would form an administration that would be democratic and listen to all. However, what we are witnessing is as soon as they came to power they are adopting the usual repressive, undemocratic ways.

We believe this is not an affair that should be ignored but should be prevented immediately. While the government deploys its repressive machinery and begins its hunting spree, they also employ their henchmen to carry out a process to intimidate and terrorize those who oppose the government’s vile moves. As such, we believe this is a matter that should be taken very seriously.

As soon as the President took the oath, he gave civil powers to the Army in a special

gazette. It is an act that need not occur when the situation in the country is normal. Also, steps were taken to repress alternative media. Media institutions were attacked. Journalists were questioned. There is a report that an official employed at the Swiss Embassy had been abducted in a white van and questioned. Also, a witch hunt has been manipulated against officers in the CID, especially its head Shani Abeysekera, who carried out investigations in connection with financial and other crimes committed during Mahinda Rajapaksa regime.

These moves we see as an attempt to terrorize the masses to carry out an undemocratic military administration. There is the danger of criminals tapping at every door if this move is not defeated at its inception. Today they will start with alternative media but tomorrow repression will reach any journalist who does not tow the government line. As such, defeating this process is the responsibility of all who cherish democracy.

The government has given civil powers to the Army at a time when there is no need to deploy security services. Normally, the Army is given police powers only when there is a situation in the country that cannot be controlled by the police such as a war situation,

insurgency or a natural disaster. When there is no such situation in the country and when the country is in a normal situation, the President, using his authority, puts troops on the streets. There is no need to have the Army on the streets. This move is a signal that the present rulers wish for an administration where the Army plays a major role. It is a dire situation that gives a wrong precedent. We believe the move is an attempt to accustom the Army to the people and prepare the social consciousness necessary for a military rule.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his group, throughout the election campaign, bragged that only they could establish national security. They have come to power now. If so, there should be national security. However, deploying the Army on the streets indicates not a secured country but insecurity. It means Gotabaya Rajapaksa has failed to fulfil what he pronounced.

The other point is that the Army has been deployed to discipline society. No country in the world has developed discipline by getting the Army on to the streets. In a disciplined country, not even the police can be seen on the streets. People in those countries are disciplined voluntarily. The people must be disciplined consciously and willingly. If the attempt to discipline the people using the gun, we get the suspicion that the attempt is for a military rule. Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa has proved that he is incapable of maintaining a peaceful administration.

We know that many frauds and crimes were committed during the Mahinda Rajapaksa regime. Those are real incidents. Large amounts of money

were stolen from ministries. Lasantha was murdered on the road. Eknaligoda was disappeared. The government has commenced a witch-hunt against CID officers including Shani Abeysekera, the head of the CID who carried out such real investigations.

The process of taking legal action against those criminals went forward at snail pace with the blessings from Ranil Wickremesinghe. The cases were not filed properly. For, they are from the same class. Despite being charged for various crimes, they have come to power again. Some have become Presidents. Some are ministers. Now they hope to punish those officers who investigated against them.

Folklore tells us that the hunter could turn gamboge (goraka) into venison and vise versa. We are going through such a period. The accused have power in their hands. There is an attempt to make the officers who carried out investigations against them the criminals. Mr Shani Abeysekera is an efficient officer who disclosed many crimes committed in the country. He carried out a duty entrusted to him by the state. The country is an atrocious one if a person has to hide in fear, to be demoted or arrested due to the performance of a duty the state has entrusted him.

If matters are carried out in this manner, investigating officers who are assigned to investigate against any future political leader would always hesitate to carry out such duties. Officers would fear to carry out such duties. Many financial frauds, including the notorious Central Bank scam, have been committed during the UNP regime. Offices who are assigned to carry out investigations against the culprits would hesitate to carry out such duties fearing that the UNP would come to power in five years and they would have to face the consequences. As such, these leaders can commit various crimes but would be free to roam. Those who investigated against them will have to be behind bars.

It is also noted that the cases that have been filed are being eliminated one by one by the Attorney



'New' govt. commences...

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the legal procedures to be carried out without any hindrance. If they are innocent, the whole country would be able to know it.

When investigations have to be carried out regarding a member of a diplomatic mission, the relevant embassy or high commission should be notified through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It seems that the functions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have been taken over by the white van clique. Are they the judiciary in the country? Is it the modern way of investigating? If

this is the treatment for members of the Swiss Embassy, what would it be like for the common people in the country? Media institutions will have to use 'beep – beep' when they announce certain information about the administration. All we have to ask those who voted for and the media institutions that supported the present rulers, 'Are you happy now?' Doesn't what happen now have an effect on our economy and the tourist industry at diplomatic levels? As a result of this incident, Sri Lanka's Ambassador to Germany and Switzerland

had to meet the Swiss authorities urgently. The first official duty of the new Minister of Foreign Affairs Dinesh Gunawardene was meeting the Swiss ambassador in Sri Lanka regarding this incident. It is a serious situation. What is the signal this incident gives the world? The power given by the people is already being used arbitrarily. Female 'web' journalists are questioned, and measures have been taken to suppress CID and police officers. Finally, suppression could be extended towards the people as well. Can this

be called a favourable situation?

Signals have been already given within these two or three days to indicate where these rulers are heading. Whichever ruler comes to power, we, as the JVP, would not hesitate to struggle against such sinister moves."

Responding to questions posed by journalists Comrade Handunneththi said, "Bandula Gunawardene says the Embassy employee has not made a statement regarding the incident to the police. After threatening her that she would be killed

if she makes a complaint, they lament that there was no complaint. The investigation and suppression come from the same direction. The 'white van' culture has begun from an Embassy. Why is the media that was vociferous regarding such incidents is silent now?

The same corrupt ministers, who were in the cabinets of previous governments, have been appointed to this cabinet as well. Isn't the example given at the beginning of the term freakish? The officials who investigated the Central Bank scam, the coal scam, the incident

where people were fed with animal food have had to flee the country. Politicos are exonerated from all misdoings! Then what would happen to honest officials? JVP is seriously studying this situation. We call upon the people and the media to act responsibly regarding this situation. We would also continue to make the people aware of the situation.

The Member of the Central Committee of the JVP Comrade Sunil Watagala, Attorney at Law and Comrade Lakshman Nipunarachchi were also present.

We are prepared...

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the increasing debt interest and instalment, breakdown of production, diminishing of state income, the debt dependability of the village folk and many others. Large scale reforms would be necessary to find solutions for such economic pressures. I do not think this government would be able to carry out such reforms. Hence, this economy that would have temporary solutions on the surface but breakdowns underneath would remain in crisis. It is like an ant-hill - builds on the surface but hollow inside. Many benefits as a show-off would be announced until the general election. However, the country would be immersed

in a deep economic crisis before long.

Red Power: As expected, a general election is due in several months. What do you think the responsibility of the people is towards the country and the masses?

Comrade Anura Dissanayake: At the presidential election a new administration has been formed. It is a new administration whether the people in the country like it or not. As such, the task of the people now is to strengthen the function of the opposition against this administration. Hence, they have to shoulder

the responsibility of building a strong opposition whose members would not be enticed by privileges, money and other perks to cross over. It is extremely necessary to generate life to this opposition. We have already built the broadest mass movement in the country. The National People's Power (NPP) is a movement that strives for a long term political transformation in the country. However, we are prepared to contest the forthcoming general election to bring in victories for the people. We invite the people to support us to fulfil the task of the strong opposition. We firmly believe the people will answer our call.

Govt. on its usual path...

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General's Department. Some use their power to get exonerated. Also, there is a tendency to take revenge from officers who conducted investigations. It is a message given – 'Hands off politicians!' There is an attempt to get a right to commit crimes, terrorize people, intimidate investigating institutions and establish an evil regime of the Rajapaksas and their lackeys. It is the reason for the hunting spree.

The masses must oppose this manipulation. The people asked for a society without frauds and corruption and one that punishes crime. What has been given to the people is entirely different.

The voter who expected Gotabaya, who was given power, to create a disciplined country has to decide now that the criminal, whichever side he is in, should be punished.

We demand the government to stop the hunting spree and its undemocratic conduct immediately. We ask all those who cherish democracy not to allow the unscrupulous conduct of the government to continue. We would emphasize that we, as the NPP, would be alert to this situation and would take all measures to defeat the atrocious conduct of the government."

New govt. trudging...

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that Gotabaya wishes to break loose from 'Mahinda doctrine' and go on an independent path. When all Rajapaksas adorn the so-called Kurahan shawl, Gota has abandoned it and has shown he is not another Rajapaksa. Despite these being effortless moves, they indicate conflicts within the family.

On the other hand, no two power centers can exist for long as a slashed presidency and an aggrandized premiership. One power center has to subdue the other. It is too early to predict how this would take place, but more conflicts could surface as a result of a process to change the Constitution. Gotabaya possesses the mandate at present, but Mahinda will also get a mandate when he becomes the Prime Minister in a few more months. It is definite that Mahinda will attempt to extend his powers then.

Meanwhile, the forces that are around the government are not fresh and honest ones. The same old corrupt forces are with the government. Good governance becomes a joke when a gang of thieves rule a country. Already, the legal procedures against the offenders have been withdrawn, taking revenge from police officers who have carried out investigations against them have begun. A new round of stealing will begin once the general election is held, a new cabinet is appointed and their power has been established. As such, the period of 'good behavior' of the government would be a very short one. Although people expected a small cabinet, already the number, with deputy and state ministers, has extended to 55. The number could go up as it is necessary to satisfy all to face the election.

All these indicate that a 'new government' that is not new is plodding along the same old path. It would not prevent people from being distressed. Then the people will seek a political force and a strong opposition that struggle on behalf of them. This void can be filled not by the UNP that waits to be traded but the NPP that has rallied genuine forces around it. Hence, what the NPP should do now is to struggle to fulfill the role of the strong opposition. This should be their target at the general election. For, there is a physical space in the political arena in Sri Lanka at present.



November Heroes showed us who real patriots are Comrade Anura Dissanayake

Comrade Rohana Wijeweera is the greatest political being born in this country. Thirty years have passed since he was assassinated. Then UNP government murdered, with him, thousands of our comrades. The memory of those comrades lingers in the bottom of our hearts forever. At that time, the Indian troops had invaded our country. Although there are no such invasions or such threats, our country is confronted with various types of threats at present. As such, there is no difference in the situation the country is faced with. The most important sections of the Colombo Harbour, Hambanthota Harbour, several tanks from Trincomalee oil farm are with foreigners at present. There is a threat to Trincomalee Harbour as well. Several economically sensitive and important centres are with foreigners. Both these groups that ruled and is ruling the country sold important sectors of the country. Several agreements that subdue our country to foreign forces have been already signed. They also attempt to sign more such agreements. As such, the threat to sovereignty and independence of our county is severe than before. National resources have been handed over to multi-national companies. During the Rajapaksa regime, a large extent of lands was handed over to American companies. Several islands in Kalpitiya were sold. The 88-89 struggle was an uprising carried out against the suppression of the rulers and the invasion by foreign forces.

Today, we have to continue this struggle in another form. Those who sell the country call themselves patriots. It was the November Heroes who showed us who the real patriots are. Rulers have not given up the move to suppress our party and our trade unions. The workers who struggled against handing over the Harbour were severely attacked by Ranil's government. The workers' limbs were broken. We have a bigger struggle for democracy. The economy of the country has been severely beaten. This batters people's lives in return. Now, there is a bigger need for the struggle. November Heroes are those who struggled in such situations and sacrificed their lives. Our party is one with such dignified past. We not only commemorate the heroics of November Heroes but resolve to absorb all their virtues into our lives.

The two camps that ruled this country and are ruling at present have fallen to the very bottom in their histories. This environment is advantageous for the masses. There should not be any hope regarding these two camps that have been disintegrated. The November Heroes too struggled against the destruction these two camps had brought to the country. They sacrificed their precious lives on behalf of the masses in this country. There are many more examples that we could gain from their lives. We of the present generation should acquire such ideals. It is necessary to achieve our final objectives. We call upon everybody to come forward with determination to achieve such objectives."

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by Comrade Anura Dissanayake at the 30th Commemoration of November Heroes held at Samodha Hall in Galle on 13.11.2019.)



30th Commemoration of November Heroes was held in Italy

