

Intimidation stories

an expression of Govt's bankruptcy

The government, which is currently failing in all areas of governing, seems to be making a shameless attempt to intimidate the people, including opposition forces, government officials, journalists and civil activists, in the face of its failure to find answers to those failures.

The latest example of this is when Minister Johnston Fernando, in discussion with government officials on the 29th, said that problems had increased because the President and the government were too good and that if a crow was killed and its wings hung, everything would be over. However, he did not specify who the raven should be killed first.

The government is bogged down in a severe financial crisis, and 208 billion rupees had been printed on the 28th. US\$ 4.5 billion of foreign reserves that the country has at present will be sufficient for the importation of goods for

03 months only. The amount of foreign debt to be repaid in 2021 is US\$ 4 billion. Sri Lanka is among the last 10 countries in terms of creditworthiness. That is, Sri Lanka is on the verge of bankruptcy. In this weak economic situation, it has become difficult for the government to keep its promises and even maintain the existing subsidies.

Many of the decisions taken by the government have had to be reversed immediately, and only neo-liberal projects such as the sale of public property, privatization and fraud and corruption are advancing rapidly. The government

has taken back decisions taken in several areas, such as importing organic fertilizer, suspending the import of palm oil, allowing the import of tiles and controlling the prices of essential commodities. The government had to withdraw its attempt to import luxury vehicles on behalf of MPs and ministers and increase gas prices due to public opposition.

Meanwhile, the government has drastically increased fuel prices, and the costs of rice, vegetables, meat and other daily necessities are rising rapidly. The people are suffering severely from the burden of living.

In this situation, the growing opposition to the government is being expressed within the government itself on social media and mass media. Even an occasion like President Gotabaya Rajapaksa addressing the nation caused a great

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*You are the rising star
that doesn't fall or die
look how it shines in the eastern sky
sings about a tomorrow and wakens
all!*

*To a world running
with only darkness in its hands
The sun shone, showed the light to the
future
and then went away!*

*The blossoms taking the colours from
the sun
giveth their fragrance to the Earth
sprouts sprang up on mountain
passes and parched lands
The revival of Earth has begun!*

*flowers bloom during drought
carry words written about spring
with comradely songs of a bird
torridity bounds to cease!*

*The presence of the rising star
washed away the darkness
the eyes that saw the future
unbolted the great path for us!*

**(On the occasion of the
birthday of beloved Comrade
Rohana Wijeweera on July 14)**



ECONOMY

For Sale at a Discount

'Selendiva'

What does it mean for the survival of a country when the government becomes a private company, which divides up and sells plots of land in that country? In today's neo-liberal capitalist economic arena, this is precisely what the current rulers of Sri Lanka have become. The current Gotabaya Rajapaksa regime has now proven to be the weakest in Sri Lanka in recent times, and already, he and his government have managed to get us into a grand mess. On the one hand, the increase in fuel prices has taken a heavy toll on the livelihoods of the general public especially the fishing community. On the other hand, the fertilizer crisis has brought farmers to the streets. Moreover, without proper solutions to the corona epidemic, the country is being plunged into an unending health crisis.

In the midst of all these crises, the government has started selling the country's valuable assets and lands to face the foreign exchange crisis (dollar reserves depletion). With the help of China, the 269-hectare city adjacent to the Colombo Port that is being built for the Colombo Port City project has been put on sale for the international market, as a Chinese joint venture. As a part of the same project, the government has set up the Selendiva Investment Company to sell state properties of commercial value throughout the country, including in the Colombo city.

What is Selendiva?

There is a legal process for establishing a state enterprise as a state-owned company. There is no legal impediment to that.

A state-owned company is set up under legally established corporate and board. For example, Litro Gas is one such state-owned company that has been the subject of much conversation recently about changing the labels on gas tanks and reducing weight. It is a company that is 100% owned by the Ceylon Insurance Corporation. LECO under the Electricity Board, Milco under the Livestock Board, and SriLankan Airlines under the Ministry of Civil Aviation are such

state-owned companies.

However, the establishment of the Selendiva Investment Company is completely different. As a first step, on March 4, 2020, the government approved the establishment of a state-owned real estate company. Subsequently, on July 3, 2020, Selendiva Investment (Pvt) Ltd was incorporated and established. This Selendiva Company has been established as a 100% Treasury owned company and the state-owned (1) Hotel Developers (Lanka)

Company (2) Canwill Holdings Company (3) Hotel Colombo Company have already been transferred to it as primary assets.

It is clearly stated in the Cabinet Memorandum submitted on 05.05.2021 to get approval for the structure of companies that Selendiva will be a Holding Company registered with Treasury ownership.

Special Purpose Vehicle (Special Purpose Entity)

Selendiva Investment Company will be the parent company, and another company will be set up as a subsidiary (Holding SPV) of it. This company, which will be created under a private-public partnership, is to be the active mechanism for selling state-owned assets transferred to Selendiva. This is where the farce of 100% state ownership is revealed for what it is in reality. This SPV is what truly carries out the sale of state-owned assets. Selendiva owns only 10% of the stakeholder shares of this intermediary company. Up to 49% of the individual assets of the holding company will be freed up to make up the

share capital of the subsidiary, which will be a private-public partnership (PPP).

Sale model - 'Restructuring!'

The Urban Development Authority is an institution established by a specific Act of the Parliament of Sri Lanka. The act is the statutory system through which the UDA is held accountable to Parliament. According to the powers vested in the Urban Development Authority, real estate and lands are leased out by the Urban Development Authority on a long-term contractual basis. That tax revenue will be government revenue through a specific statutory system. However, under the label of 'restructuring', the sale of the state-owned land and buildings in the stock market is being carried out by the Selendiva Real Estate Investment Company, which has only been approved by the Cabinet. Currently, the aforesaid three state-owned companies have been added for this purpose, and under three investment portfolios, Selendiva and its subsidiary have been given the power to acquire the most valuable lands in the city of Colombo and sell them to investors.

The three investment portfolios are:

- 1) Heritage Square in Colombo Fort
- 2) Real estate development
- 3) State-owned hospitality sector

The Colombo Fort Cultural Heritage Square includes the 1.57-acre Grand Oriental Hotel, the York Building, the 0.75-acre Gaffoor Building, the Colombo General Post Office, and the 1.5-acre Ministry of External Affairs building.

Real estate development zones include the CeyNor Restaurant property in Colombo, the 5-acre Waters Edge Hotel in Battaramulla including the land, and the International Coordinating Center in Kankesanthurai, Jaffna.

The state-owned hospitality sector includes the Colombo Hilton Hotel and Sports Center, and the unfinished Colombo Grand Hyatt Hotel.

The Cabinet also approved the removal of these buildings and properties from the authority of the Urban Development Authority, allowing them to be sold directly to the investors with documentation



Frustration within...

In earlier Sri Lankan politics, it was the people who voted who became frustrated after the formation of governments. However, there is a sense of frustration among those in power in the current government. It is clear from the recent behaviour of the government. On the one hand, the government-affiliated groups that praised Gotabaya Rajapaksa and deceived the people into forming this government have begun to criticize each other amid contradictions and conflicts. On the other, Gotabaya Rajapaksa and others have begun to feel that he has failed in every way. Interestingly, alternative proposals have also emerged within the government.

If the government is successful in gaining the support of the people or if it is organized in an organized manner, then the tendency for internal crises, frustrations and contradictions is very low. But when a government deteriorates, when it is left in the dark without a goal or a plan, when the people are displeased, a situation arises in which they try to save themselves and place the blame on others. Such a situation has arisen less than two years since the present government has been in office. Both the

government and Gotabaya have inadvertently had to admit that they have failed.

How deep the crisis has exacerbated can be seen when PA Secretary Sagara Kariyawasam wrote a letter to Minister Udaya Gammanpila urging him to resign. They intended to mislead the people and prevent the government from being blamed for the recent fuel price hike issue. It seems that some within the government are 'hiding the knife' but smiling and shaking hands on the surface. An incident took place recently where we can understand how incompetent Gotabhaya Rajapaksa is as President and how frustrated he is. That is, when Gotabaya Rajapaksa suddenly 'addressed the nation. A head of a state usually addresses the nation at an extraordinary occasion that affects the nation itself. It is for a specific reason. However, Gotabaya's 69-minute 'Address to the Nation' was more of a lament than an address to the nation. If a head of state is successful, it must be expressed by the people; through those who work with him or her. Otherwise, if someone has to 'answer' to show that he has not failed, it proves that he has failed and that even his own conscience knows it.

The latest incident in which Gotabaya's failure has been expressed within the government is the statements made by a group within the ruling party to bring Basil Rajapaksa to Parliament and hand over the economy. A group close to Basil, including Piyal Nishantha, Prasanna Ranatunga and Lansa, had recently told the media that Basil Rajapaksa was the only person capable of reviving the country's economy. They say when Basil takes over the economy, the country will overflow with milk and honey. Looking at these statements and Basil's preparation for coming to Parliament (he had not come to Parliament at the time of writing this article), it seems that there is humour as well as tragedy in this. Is it going to be a tragicomedy? Those who are currently in the government and those who contributed to the formation of this government made a big commotion throughout the election saying that this is the last chance for this country and that Gotabaya Rajapaksa is the only person who can rebuild the country. They praised his knowledge, foreign experience, discipline, and support he can muster and said that Gotabaya was the only saviour who could save the country. But when the

same individuals say that Basil Rajapaksa is the only person who can recover the economy now, does that not mean that Gotabaya Rajapaksa has failed? Doesn't that mean that his 'Viyathmaga' is bankrupt?

Also, Mahinda Rajapaksa is currently in charge of the Ministry of Finance. Mahinda Rajapaksa once told the media, 'We will show you how to make money.' He is also the Prime Minister. When it is said that Basil is the 'expert' to rebuild the economy, doesn't it mean that Mahinda has failed as the Finance Minister? It is in this context that we say that the government itself is frustrated.

Basil Rajapaksa and those close to him may have a political plan. There may be a plan to fill the void left by the failure of Gotabhaya by getting a ministerial portfolio to Basil and puff him up so that another Rajapaksa could be brought to the limelight. But given the nature of the current economic crisis, the miracles of individuals can do nothing here. The only thing that can happen is that Basil also would show his inadequacy. In that sense, Basil's current appointment could be a setback for future power projects. But the crisis in the government has decayed to the point where everything cannot be saved.

On the other hand, there is another side to this. There is something that government ministers who claim that 'expert' Basil can build the economy are hiding from the country. Although he did not have any ministry at present, Basil Rajapaksa currently holds several positions related to the economy of this government. For example, Basil is the head of the Presidential Task Force on

Economic Revival and Poverty Alleviation. Basil is also the head of the Presidential Task Force on Continuing Direction, Coordination and Follow-up of Essential Public Services. He is also the Head of the Task Force on Creating a Green Sri Lanka with Sustainable Solutions to Climate Change. It was while he was in charge that the trees of the country were cut down and destroyed. He is also the Trustee of the covid Fund. So what else does he need to revive the economy? When Basil bore all these responsibilities, the country's economy collapsed, poverty increased, public services were disrupted, and the people suffered. Basil goes on holiday to America (his country) despite this situation. So giving Basil a ministry will not change anything because a ministry is not a magic wand or Aladdin's magic lamp.

It has also shattered the dreams of those who dreamed of a purely disciplined, clean administration without family rule. No other country in the world is ruled by such a large family. In Sri Lanka, Gotabhaya Rajapaksa is now the President, and in addition to the Ministry of Defense, he also holds the Ministry of Technology. In addition to being the Prime Minister, Mahinda Rajapaksa holds several ministries, including the Ministry of Finance. Chamal has a cabinet ministry and a state ministry. Namal has a cabinet ministry and a state ministry. Shailendra Rajapaksa is a Minister of State. The rest of the Rajapaksa family has also been given various posts. Such was the rule of Gotabhaya, who promised not to build a family rule. This is a regime built on lie upon a lie; a regime where thieves support each other; lying and deception are religion. Nothing more can be expected in a backward capitalist country where politics is a racket and when capitalism is in crisis. The President, the prime minister, the ministers, the government, and the whole system have failed.

It is a futile attempt to find new saviours in the existing system while maintaining the Rajapaksa regime or finding other saviours to replace the Rajapaksa regime. It is why an alternative force of the people must be created and lined up for a people's rule.



We would lead every struggle of the people, no matter who attempts repression

Comrade Anura Dissanayake,
Leader of the JVP

The government should stop the repression launched by it immediately. Those who led these protests have been ordered to report to the police station at 9.00 am on the 7th to give statements. What is being tried is to intimidate. It is to suppress protests. As such, we tell the government that if it tries to suppress the protests by intimidating those who intervene, it will be a futile attempt. Attempts to arrest them should be stopped immediately. I emphasize that the just demands of the people should be addressed immediately. We are ready to lead and win every struggle of these people, no matter who takes such repressive measures," said the Leader of the JVP Comrade Anura Dissanayake.

He said this at a media briefing held at the JVP head office.

He further said, "The government has arrested several farmers who were protesting

for fertilizer. In addition, the All Ceylon Farmers' Federation President comrade Namal Karunaratne, former JVP Provincial Councilor comrade Samantha Vidyaratne and the Chief Incumbent of the Gal-edanda Vijitharamaya, Ven. Weeraketiyie Anuruddha Thero are to be arrested. This repressive action needs to be explained to society.

At present, a protest wave is rising against this government carried out by all people throughout the country. Farmers, fishermen, university students are forwarding their issues. The general public is protesting against the inability to live. These protests do not arise in isolation. They occur because the government is failing to meet the basic needs of the people. Farmers' colonies have now become the focus of these protests. Many farming colonies such as Eppawala, Anuradhapura, Welimada and Embilipitiya have been protesting against the government for some

time. Their main issue is that the government has failed to provide the necessary inputs for their agriculture promptly. It is a question of the life of the farmer community. Potato cultivation has been the main source of income for farmers in the Welimada area. Lands have been prepared, and tubers have been brought in, but the government has failed to provide the inputs needed to plant them. Vegetable farmers in the Dambulla area are destroying their brinjal harvest. That is because the government did not take action to provide the required pesticides. Their crops are being destroyed before the eyes of the farming community. They have not been able to get enough of the harvest. Worms is destroying vegetable crops. They are facing a catastrophe in a major economy tied to the lives of the peasantry.

The government decided to stop chemical inputs and switch to organic inputs. No one objected to that. If so, the government should provide

the right amount of organic inputs at the right time. But the government failed to do so. Farmers had to see their crops being destroyed before their eyes. It is their only source of income. They have only the income from agriculture to cover the expenses of thousands of their issues. All those engaged in agriculture have been affected. What should they do when their livelihood is being ruined before their eyes? They take to the streets and express their tormenting pain. They are not prepared to keep their ears closed for the devastation that would ensue. They are not ready for it. They have a just right to speak up. We must listen to the grievances of the people who are suffering. They need to be addressed. We do politics for that. It is our inalienable responsibility. Comrade Samantha Vidyaratne, the organizer of our party in the Badulla district, took the lead for that responsibility. Is it wrong for him to meditate? Also, Comrade Namal Karunaratne is leading the All Ceylon Farmers' Federation, which has been established for the rights of the farming community. How could he be wrong to intervene in those protests?

The presiding priest of the

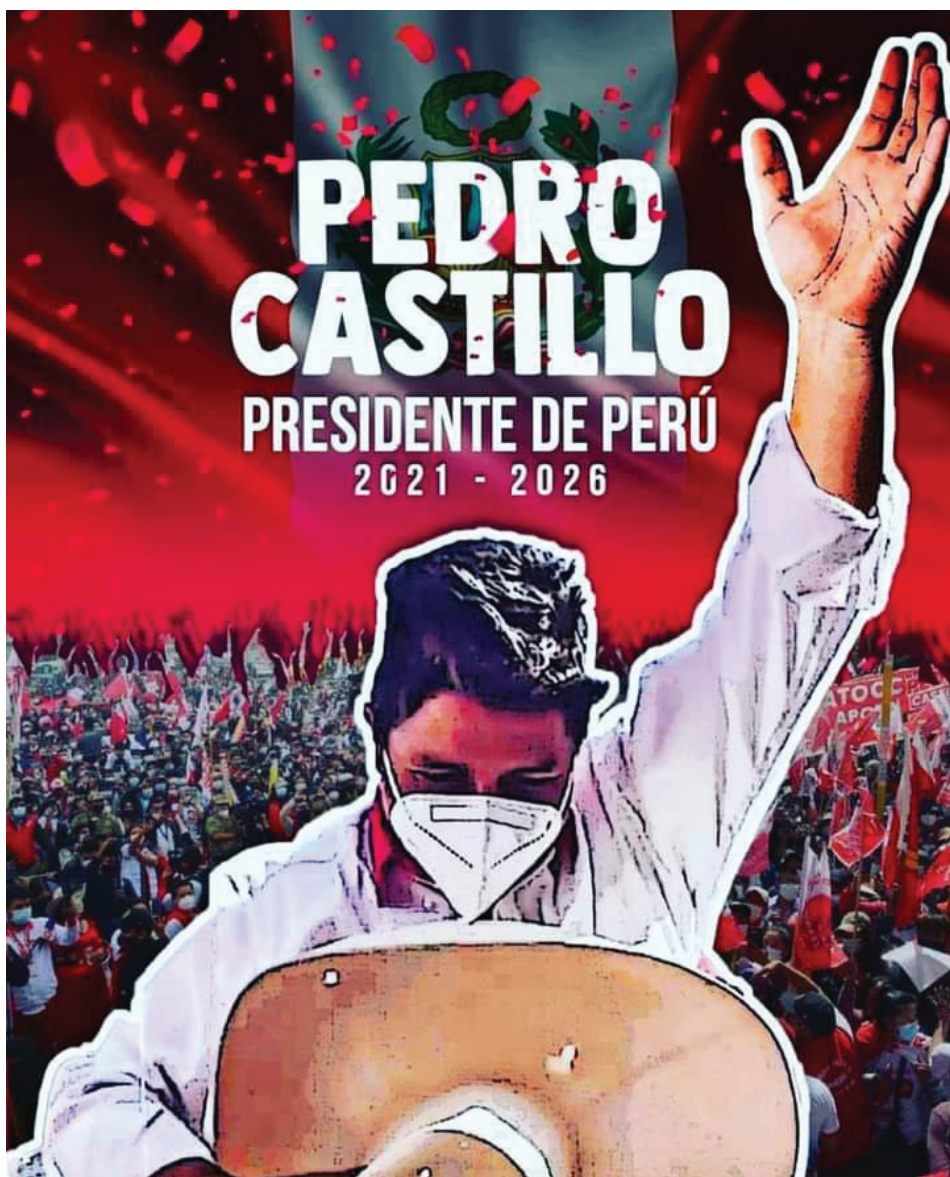
temple sees this injustice that is happening to the people of his village. That is why he comes forward. Now the government is trying to arrest and suppress them. We tell the President and this government if they think they could suppress the just protests of the people through their usual repressive measures, it is just a daydream of the President. These protests can only be stopped by providing solutions to their grievances. The repression launched by the government should be stopped immediately. Now, those who led these protests have been ordered to report to the police station at 9.00 am on the 7th to give statements. What is being tried is to intimidate. It is to suppress protests.

Therefore, we tell the government that if it tries to suppress the protests by intimidating those who meditate, it will be a futile attempt. Attempts to arrest them should be stopped immediately. I emphasize that the just demands of the people should be addressed immediately. We are ready to lead and win every struggle of the people, no matter who attempts such repressive measures.

None of those who took part in these protests was involved for their own personal gain. They intervene to win the just demands of the people. Protesters were shot dead during 2005-2015. We saw it in Rathupaswala, Welisara and Chilaw. When Gotabaya was the Defense Secretary, he used his battalion to kill peaceful protesters. Media institutions that exposed government facts were set on fire. Some were bombed. Journalists were abducted and had their limbs broken. Some were murdered. These rulers have such a black history. If this attempt is to revive that black history, we tell President Gotabaya that you should immediately withdraw those preparations. We also call on the people of this country to raise their voice against the steps taken by the government to suppress peaceful protests and to come forward against it."



Peru's right in a conspiracy to prevent victory of the left



It has been 20 days since Peru's presidential election, but authorities have not yet announced Pedro Castillo as the winner. Political commentators say the delay could lead to a right-wing coup. Legally the winner must be declared by July 28th. Otherwise the electoral process will be nullified and the necessary space will be created for a conspiracy.

Pedro's victory

Leftist candidate Pedro Castillo, who represented the Freedom Party in the June 6 presidential election, won the election with 50.125% of the vote (8.83 million). He received 44,000 more votes than his rival, Keiko Fujimori.

Keiko Fujimori is the daughter of former dictator Alberto Fujimori,

now imprisoned for crimes against humanity and corruption during his decade-long rule that ended in 2000. If she fails to secure the presidency, she too faces the prospect of imprisonment on corruption charges relating to massive bribery and kickback scandal. She ran for president from the popular force party with 8.78 million votes. She does not accept the election results and has gone to court seeking the abolition of about 200,000 votes in 802 polling stations, alleging irregularities in areas where Pedro Castillo received the most votes. Although the final results have been released by the Peruvian Electoral Authority, the authorities have not yet officially announced the name of the president-elect.

The conspiracy begins

Meanwhile, a judge known to be a pro - Fujimori abruptly resigned on the 23rd of this month while the National Elections Court was hearing a case filed against Fujimori alleging vote rigging and calling for the cancellation of elections in areas where Pedro Castillo had won a significant victory. This means that the court will not be able to take the case further and declare Pedro Castillo's victory. If it is not possible to announce the president by July 28, the Congress in Peru must convene and elect a president. At the moment, right-wing groups have the most power in Congress. So they can prevent the victory of Pedro Castillo by nominating a person of their choice as president.

Retired military officials in the Peruvian capital, Lima, are still protesting, urging not to give power to Pedro Castillo of the left and asking the security forces to take over the country. Earlier, they had launched a mail-in campaign calling for intervention to prevent Pedro Castillo from coming to power. Some members of Congress, who are hoping to elect a president of their choice after July 28, have also joined the protests.

U.S. intervention

The Election Commission of Peru is once again in crisis due to an audio recording released on June 24. It reveals how Vladimiro Monticino, a close ally of former dictator Alberto Fujimori and currently in prison, was influencing the decision of the National Electoral Authority. In the audio recording, he instructs Keiko Fujimori's staff that several officials from the National Electoral Authority are his allies and will work to ensure Fujimori's victory, with the support of the U.S. embassy. Lisa Kenna is the newly appointed Ambassador to the United States. She has been an adviser to former U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and has served as a U.S. Central Intelligence Agency official for nearly nine years as Secretary to state officials in Iraq.

Menticino is currently being held in a naval base after being convicted of fraud, corruption and human rights abuses during the reign of Alberto Fujimori. According to Peruvian naval authorities, phone calls were received on the day of Montesino's audio recording, but to a phone number registered in his wife's name. Investigations are

underway.

Meanwhile, supporters of Pedro Castillo are also taking to the streets to protest against the right-wing coup. For the past five decades, Peru has had pro-imperialist right-wing regimes. (Juan Alvarado's rule was the only left-wing regime from 1968

to 1975.) Therefore, the US-led right-wing force in Peru is less likely to accept its defeat with ease. Nevertheless, there is a chance of securing an election victory if the struggle is carried out correctly in the face of the crisis facing imperialism on an international scale.

Cuba:

The resolution against sanctions won by a majority of votes

On June 23, the entire world protested against the inhumane sanctions imposed on Cuba by the United States for more than six decades. Cuba has condemned the sanctions and submitted a resolution to the UN General Assembly urging its immediate lifting of the sanctions.

The resolution received 184 votes in favour, with only the United States and Israel voting against. Three countries abstained. This is a great achievement for Cuba in the international arena.

Belgium:

Protests against NATO summit

The 31st Summit of the NATO was held in Brussels on June 14. The main theme of this year's conference was the challenge from China. On June 13, a protest was called in Brussels by the Belgian Communist Party and the Belgian Workers' Party against the NATO summit.

Their main slogan was 'No Cold War against Russia and China!' Protests were held in several other European countries against the NATO summit.

United States:

Internet Restrictions

The United States has taken control of a number of news sites in Iran and the region, stating they were spreading misinformation and claiming that it is a threat to their national security.

There has been massive opposition to this arbitrary act by the United States carried out on the 22nd. Protesting groups have condemned the United States' use of the Internet as a property of its own.

Iran:

A hardliner to run for president

Ibrahim Rice won the June 18 presidential election in Iran. He received 61.95% of the vote. Only 49% of voters cast ballots at Iran's 13th presidential election.

Ibrahim Rice is a hardliner and criticized Iran's current "reformist" government for failing to properly control the country's covid 19 epidemic and allowing the economy to collapse.

CORONA: BEGGAR'S WOUND OF THE GOVERNMENT

Comrade Tilvin Silva,
General Secretary of the JVP



The statement issued by the Police quoting the Director-General of Health states that the police will act against those who break quarantine laws. Instead of using the quarantine law to suppress the corona, the present government has started suppressing the struggles of the people in our country. The Police Headquarters issued a statement on 6th July stating that protests, rallies will be banned due to health risks. Why did they suddenly remember something like this suddenly? Several quarantine laws related to corona suppression have been published.

According to government statistics, corona infections have not changed much in recent times. So the underlying purpose of this statement is clearly to stop mass protests on the pretext of taking action against health risks. Several factors

influenced the government to make such an announcement suddenly. The Kotelawala University Act, which marks the death knell of free education and militarizes education, is being prepared to be passed in Parliament.

The privatization of education began when Ranil Wickremesinghe was the Minister of Youth Affairs and Education. Due to protests carried out against it by students, teachers and parents, the move was defeated. This government too is using great force to get this bill passed suddenly. Don't ordinary citizens have the right to know about a bill that affects the future of children in this country?

There is no dialogue in society about it yet. The government is ready to adopt it fraudulently without allowing any such dialogue. But those who love

free education and those who care about their children's right to education are protesting against it. Therefore, press releases are issued by the Police Headquarters to suppress the protests against the bill. How can it be a crime to speak out about a bill on the right to education of one's children? Mr Ranil Wickremesinghe and the upper-class racketeers around Mr Rajapaksa have no problem with this. Nevertheless, the children of the common people get higher education because of free education. Destroying it is not easily reversed.

On the other hand, there is a series of farmers' protests over the fertilizer issue. A series of protests are going on against the increase in prices of essential commodities. They are not artificial or forced protests. People have a real problem. People have a choice

to make whether to die of corona or die from starvation. Without fertilizer, there will be no harvest. Without harvest, there will be no food. So farmers cannot wait for the corona to stop. The same goes for the Kotelawala Act. It will be brought to Parliament. The people have a sacred right to speak out against these issues.

Corona suppression laws are being used to seize that right fraudulently. The government has no intention of suppressing corona. Corona issue continues like a beggar's wound. They cover all their inadequacies with corona. The government commits all possible hostilities against the country. The Port City Act was passed under the cover of corona. The use of corona laws to suppress anti-government protests is a vicious attempt. The government has failed economically, politically, administratively as well as in suppressing the corona and providing education. As such, there is opposition to the government on all sides. The government has no answers. The government will continue to crack down on those who fight responsibly for their just rights.

The government is pursuing a policy of arresting and intimidating people. What was once done using the Emergency Act is now being done using the Prevention of Terrorism Act and today it is being done using the Corona Law. The government is also using the Director-General of Health for its narrow purposes. We tell him not to allow them to use him for their narrow aims. There are many absurd decisions taken by the government in the recent past. The travel restrictions imposed in the past were changed from time to time to allow the private sector to continue working. The public sector was also allowed. Essential services were also allowed. There was no travel limit. Mr Shavendra Silva also decided to open the fairs. How to open weekly fairs and restrict travel? These actions have ridiculed travel restrictions. The bars were opened. We know how the crowds fill up when the government opens bars to collect tax revenue. The spas too, were allowed to open. Can massage therapists maintain a meter distance? Several army

camps were used without any plan to provide vaccinations in the Western Province. All the channels showed how crowds thronged to these centres. How could they keep the meter distance? The army officers were also pushed aside by the crowds. These are the real clusters.

Crowds are allowed to gather but when people take to the streets for their rights they are intimidated and arrested even when the protesters are abiding by the Corona quarantine laws. Farmers' leaders who participated in the Welimada Borallanda farmers' agitation were arrested. Comrade Namal Karunaratne, Comrade Samantha Vidyaratne and a Buddhist priest who lead it were arrested. The court granted them bail. Also protesters of the Frontline Party had been arrested.

These were not the hopes of the 6.9 million who voted for the government. They expected to build a disciplined country, a just society and exercise their free rights. Now, the government is suppressing the voice of the people and intimidating the media, which is voicing the concerns of the people. We demand the government not to attempt this. No one who has treaded on that path has won. JR, who had 5/6 more power than Gotabaya Rajapaksa, was thrown to the dustbin. Therefore, we urge the government to stop these vile moves.

We, yet again, call upon the government to reverse the Kotelawala University Act to be brought tomorrow. People who are shouting for fertilizer should be given a suitable type of fertilizer. Provide relief to the people fighting due to the increase in oil prices and the increase in prices of goods. We ask the government not to raise the sarong to cover its face due to shame. If that happens, it will be exposed. The government is doing that. The country has agreed not to break the Corona rules. However, if the government is violating the corona rules, if the government does not allow the corona rules to be obeyed, it has to listen to the voice of the people and should not be prepared to suppress that voice.

At the same time, we propose to

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as well as tax relief. This includes tax concessions granted under the Strategic Development Projects Act to foreign investors.

Prison to be vacated!

On the same day that the Selendiva Investment Company was approved by the Cabinet, Mahinda Rajapaksa, the Minister of Urban Development, and Ali Sabry, the Minister of Justice, submitted another Cabinet Memorandum requesting permission to remove the Welikada Prison premises near the Colombo-Borella Baseline Road, from that location to Millaniya, Kalutara and to release the land for sale. The land area is 42 acres. It has been confirmed by the relevant Cabinet Memorandum that this land is to be sold as a commercial asset in the Selendiva project. The estimated cost of setting up the prison in Millaniya area is Rs30.6 billion, and the loan will be provided by the Treasury in three tranches and will be repaid with the proceeds from the lease of the land. It also states that the Welikada prison land will be leased out to local and foreign investors to be developed under three phases. It is further stated that this land will be transferred to the Urban Development Authority through a free grant.

The previous Cabinet

Memorandum on the establishment of Selendiva stated that the lands under the Urban Development Authority would be transferred to Selendiva. Accordingly, as the next step, this land too will be another sale for Selendiva Real Estate Company.

Port City and Selendiva

The Colombo Port City Project which was recently approved in Parliament and this Selendiva Investment project have an organic connection. This prospect of selling off the most historically and commercially valued lands around Colombo Fort could very well be another part of the Port City project.

Weak capitalist rulers who privatized the state institutions in the past have now resorted to selling commercially highly valued lands in Colombo in the same way that they are weakening agriculture and handing over farmland to multinational corporations.

A key requirement of neo-liberal economic reforms is the direct withdrawal of the government from the economic process and the removal of existing legal constraints on the acquisition of those economies by capital. We must understand the Selendiva investment model too as a process tailored to that capitalist

economic requirement. Although the Urban Development Authority is also able to release land for business purposes on a long-term lease basis, it has placed a number of restrictions on capital that seeks fast exploitation. What is being done now under the new name of 'capital restructuring' is to loosen up those bonds. It is to allow the economy, the land, to be exploited long term to suit imperialist capitalism. If the government can get some dollars at least in the last hour, if it pays commissions to the rulers and their crooked business ring, they will raise their hand to this sale without any hesitation. They do not even care that Parliament itself should amend the relevant laws so that the company is established by an Act of Parliament passed by public representatives. The power of the people has simply been kicked aside.

Using a limited power of five years, they are depriving the inheritance of generations to come. What is being challenged is the power of the people. Therefore, such malicious intentions can only be defeated by building a people's force that defeats not only such weak and power-hungry rulers but also this corrupt economic system.

CORONA:

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the government to make a proper plan and take action to control corona. The government should prepare a plan to repress corona within two to three months. We emphasize that the government should not obstruct the normal life of the people while corona is allowed to spread throughout the country. Let us all work together to make a corona eradication plan and end this pandemic.

The government cannot be allowed to use corona to cover their shortcomings. We tell Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa that the repressive measures cannot stop just struggles of the people. It has been proved in Sri Lanka or any other country in the world that repressive measures cannot stop struggles. Repression brings more people to the battlefields and creates new battlefields. Government repression has created another battleground to protect democracy.

Whatever repressive measures the government takes would create battlefields. Repression cannot solve problems. It cannot scare away people. On the other hand, we tell the government that no matter who is intimidated, the JVP cannot be intimidated. We would not stop the activities we take on behalf of the people. We will continue to struggle and take action on reasonable grounds. The government has to take back the repressive measures.

Excerpts from the speech made at the press conference held at the JVP head office

Message from the JVP on the Centenary of the Communist Party of China'

The JVP sent a message 'On the Centenary of the Communist Party of China'

It states:

General Secretary,
Communist Party of China.

Dear Comrade,

On the Centenary of the Communist Party of China

On July 1st 2021 the Communist Party of China marks 100 years since it was founded and we, as the JVP, congratulate the Communist Party of China for the leadership it has given to the people in China to achieve contentment by "putting the people first" that has pushed China forward. The party that has ruled China, the most populous country in the world since 1949, has more than 90 million members. It is glad to see that Chinese people acknowledge the role played by the Communist Party of China in bringing modernity and prosperity to them.

The Communist Party of China started its journey of giving leadership to the Chinese people from 1921' when the country was driven by

feuding warlords, deeply enmeshed in various wars, poverty and helpless in the international arena. However, with the leadership of the Communist Party of China, China has emerged as a global power, has the world's largest economy (PPP basis), and has become a leading space explorer. At the same time we appreciate the exemplary role played by the Chinese government with leadership of the CPC to control the Covid 19 pandemic and its global level support to the WHO and other countries in their vaccination programmes proving that "Everyone's safety would only guarantee the safety of oneself."

The achievements of China, led by the Communist Party of China, are very much remarkable at a time when capitalism and imperialism led by the USA and its allies are conspiring against the masses to loot the resources belonging to the people on this Earth.

It is our belief that the Communist Party of China, which has a history of playing a significant role in the struggle against imperialism and

injustice, would support progressive people and their organizations that are fighting under the guidance of Marxist-Leninist theory and practice, against exploitation, oppression, injustice, inequity and suppression.

Once again, let us, on behalf of all the members of our Party, wish the Communist Party of China strength and courage to achieve progressive objectives for the people in China. Also, we believe the Communist Party of China would play a more interactive and pivotal role to strengthen more coordinated work among the Left parties to lead the world towards Socialism and make this world a pleasant place for humankind.

Long live the Communist Party of China!

Long live Proletarian Internationalism!

Fraternally,
On Behalf of the Central Committee,
Tilvin Silva
General Secretary.

Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna
(People's Liberation Front – JVP)

Intimidation stories...

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deal of laughter on social media. He has become more of a joker than a ruler who can further intimidate the people. The pro-government ideology that was seen as a huge people's power 11/2 years ago has now waned, and the government cannot get any protection from it. In this situation, the raven-wing speeches made by some government ministers show the extent of frustration.

While they are proposing repression, the frenzy of local government leaders is being expressed in places like Rideemaliyadda, Mahiyanganaya. Meanwhile, the government is also suddenly trying to amend the Prevention of Terrorism Act. However, with all these actions and efforts, the government is sure to get its image further deteriorated among the people and will additionally call for economic sanctions such as the EU ban on GSP plus.

Comrade Tilvin Silva, the General Secretary of the JVP, in response to a query, said that amid all these circumstances, the bewilderment of the heads of government was understandable. The people should not be afraid of their frantic statements but should overthrow these failed regimes and create a people's rule.

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WHAT SHALL WE DO

Not even two years have lapsed after assuming power; the Gotabhaya regime has shown the world that they are an utter failure in everything that had been done. They have shown how incompetent, inefficient they are. There is no necessity to elaborate on this. All those who voted for them saying that this is the last chance to save the country and that Gotabhaya Rajapakse is the only suitable candidate for this purpose, have already begun to ridicule him. This is clear when one logs into the Face Book account of Gotabhaya Rajapakse. Thousands of people have begun to draw funny caricatures of him in his own Face Book.

J. R. Jayawardena was the ruler who became most unpopular and many funny stories circulated around him. That was because the country was betrayed to India, and he acted as a dictator. Despite the fact that there were many stories, cartoons and poems, he was never portrayed as a joker to the civil society. Anyway Gotabhaya Rajapakse has surpassed him and now has become the laughing stock of the whole country. Every single word uttered by him is being ridiculed in the society. People who thought that he would be a rigid ruler are disillusioned and now realize that he is weak and he is being laughed at. This goes to show how unpopular his regime has become.

The Rajapakses assumed power through instilling nationalistic, patriotic and anti imperialistic hopes in the minds of the people. A regime that would always give priority to the nationalistic approach was promised. Anyway all those hopes have been dashed to the ground now.

Actually the present regime now shows signs of assuming neoliberal economic policies and politically, signs of feudalism are evident. It is also a regime of robbers and thieves. It is not even a matured imperialistic regime. It is this regime that has failed miserably and gone into a crisis. This regime which was built up on racism, religion and mythology, have failed in those issues too and is being refused now.

A question which is arising in society is ample evidence as to show how grave the situation is. The question is “What do we do next?” The very same people who brought this government into power are raising the question “what shall we do?” Some who have gone beyond that are bringing in various proposals. While the Rajapakses are trying to find a leader from within their clan, the people have started considering alternatives.

People from all walks of life, from far away farming villages to urban middle class have started opposing the decisions of the various sections of the government. Anyhow up to now, no solid solution to the crisis has surfaced. As a result, various answers are appearing to the question, “what next?”

Now ignoring the truth and running round in circles, is of no use. The model of the Rajapakse regime is unsuccessful. This is a family oriented, feudalistic neoliberal regime. So it is unsuccessful. Also the economically neoliberal and politically liberal models which were promised earlier have also failed. That was during the Maithreepala and Ranil era. Gotabhaya Rajapakse received such an immense majority due to the failure of Ranil, Maithreepala regime. Whoever comes in whatever name, this neo liberal capitalist concept is a total failure. Those policies are unable to find solutions to our problems. The economy cannot be revived. The political instability is a direct result of the economic crisis. Now the economy has become a hunting ground of robbers. The politics too follows suit. By following these economic policies, it becomes impossible to build a liberal, democratic, socialist government. Those are fairytale stories. Therefore now we should strive to change the entire system.

There is no provision for a common social responsibility in the current ongoing economic system which is totally dependent on profits. It is imperative that we change the present economic system, which is being handled by a few thieving multinational companies, and a few businessmen who are in the habit of oiling the palms of politicians. Then the corrupt, dishonest political culture too could be changed. Social justice should not only be depicted in politics alone. Even the economy too should be just and fair. When the economic justice is confirmed, it automatically becomes social justice.

A method should be evolved, where the dividends of economic development are distributed equally among all. It could only be possible through a scientific economic approach based on socialist fundamentals. The private sector as well as the state sector should play an active role in the economy and the government should take the leadership with a proper plan. All other social services should be evolved in keeping with this and only through this the country could be changed.

The present crisis and the lessons taught by the previous capitalist regimes are in anticipation of this change. It can neither be affected by the aristocratic groups who ruled the country so far, nor the political parties consisting of the so called liberals. It could only be carried out by a leftist, progressive patriotic front, a people’s’ movement. Only the JVP backed by other leftist parties only have the ability and the eligibility to launch such a venture. Strengthening this movement fast and ensuring its victory should be the duty of all who are affected by the present crisis. Only then the country will win the true sense of the word.

JVP sends greetings to 23rd Congress of AKEL

[Progressive Party of Working People (AKEL) is a major political party in Cyprus that supports an independent, demilitarized, and non-aligned Cyprus. It was founded in 1926 with the name Communist Party of Cyprus (CPC). The party set as its aim not only the struggle against exploitation but also the independence of Cyprus from British rule.

The 23rd Congress of the Party will take place today (2nd) and continue till the 4th.

According to the Central Committee of AKEL “the 23rd Congress will become a landmark not only for the Party, but also for Cyprus because our country and people need a strong and pioneering, militant and radical, united and well[1]organized, modern and constantly renewed AKEL. A Party tied to the working people, the young generation and the people.]

Greetings to the Progressive Party of Working People (AKEL) on the occasion of its 23rd Congress

Dear Comrades,

You are holding your 23rd Congress at a time when the working class and the oppressed peoples of the world are confronted with the worst global economic crisis and the most dangerous pandemic that has engulfed the world. It is also a time when international imperialism and its neoliberal stooges of the ruling classes in most capitalist countries carry out severe attacks against the working masses and their rights.

As an island in the Eastern Basin of the Mediterranean Sea and the third largest island in the Mediterranean, close to Western Asia, the Middle East, Southern Europe, and Northern Africa, Cyprus could play an essential part in bringing the peoples in the Mediterranean region closer. The AKEL party could play a pivotal role in taking Marxism Leninism to the masses.

We are definite that the 23rd Congress of AKEL would give proper leadership to the party’s membership under the guidance of Marxist-Leninist theory and practice so that the party would fulfil proletarian internationalism in the struggle against capitalism and imperialism strive for the emancipation of humankind.

We also take this opportunity to appreciate the role your party has played in having a very close relationship with our party. Despite the minor setbacks at the recently held elections, we are definite that your party’s experiences would definitely play an essential role in the struggle to achieve Socialism for your people.

In the meantime, the covid-19 pandemic is a misery for all oppressed masses in the world. It divides the world population into those having the privilege of getting superior medical treatment and those left to look after themselves. Nevertheless, the pandemic has also created an opportunity for the progressive people throughout the world to unite, struggle, and seek a just world.

It is also a state where capitalism is confronted with its worst economic, financial, political, social, spiritual, and moral crises. It is a period the predictions by our great teachers Marx’ and Engels that capitalism and imperialism will be gravediggers of themselves are being proved.

The Marxist-Leninist Communist parties and their supporters in the world will have to exploit this global crisis to raise the revolutionary spirit in their countries and mobilize the broad masses in the struggle to build amicable societies for all citizens to lead contented lives.

We believe that the 23rd Congress will give due guidance to the AKEL. With its new leadership that will be elected and the decisions taken at its Congress, it will be at the forefront of your country’s struggle against capitalism and imperialism.

Long live Marxism Leninism!

Long live Proletarian Internationalism!

Fraternally,

On Behalf of the Central Committee,

Tilvin Silva

General Secretary.

Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (People’s Liberation Front – JVP)