

Reveal Kerawalapitiya Secret Agreement Immediately!

Comrade Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa



The government must immediately make public the agreement signed to hand over the Kerawalapitiya power plant to an American company as it was signed without informing the public, parliament and the Cabinet states the JVP.

Comrade Dr Nalinda Jayatissa, Member of the Central Committee, speaking at a media briefing held at the party head office on the 15th said the Kerawalapitiya power plant handing over to an American company had been done by the top three members of the Rajapaksa family.

He said, "We emphasize that the details regarding the agreement must be made available to the public. This agreement has a severe impact on the politics and economy of our country. An environment has been created in which the United States can intervene in our country.

There is a general recognition that the right to energy should not be allowed to belong to an individual, a single company or another country. As such, the Electricity Board also intervened and took it into consideration in formulating our energy policy in 2019. Accordingly, this policy was followed concerning the Kerawalapitiya Power Plant, which commenced construction in 2010. Kerawalapitiya Power Plant is the first power plant in our country to generate electricity from natural gas. It operated as a dual power plant until the required process was completed. The power plant,

gas storage terminal, piping, and gas supply had to be set up to complete it.

Kerawalapitiya is currently under construction. Although it is a 300 MW power plant, it will be expanded to a 1000MW power plant a few years later. It is about 1/3 of the electricity requirement of our country. Such a power plant is to be handed over to American New Fortress Energy company regardless of the tender process. The Minister of Power and Energy and the Chairman of the Electricity Board were removed to make room for this though they represented the SLPP government. They were removed when they became an obstacle for the government to achieve its objective. That is how the government acted to hand over this energy monopoly to the United States.

There is massive waste, fraud and corruption in awarding

this contract to this company. Gas supply for ten years is a US\$ 6000 million contract. The construction of the Hambantota port cost only US\$ 1200 million. The contract will be awarded to New Fortress Energy without a tender. It is a 'Take O Pay' type of agreement. We have to pay whether we buy or not. Usually, we need electricity from the Kerawalapitiya power plant only between 6.00 pm and 12.00 pm. For that, we need only 700,000 gallons of gas per day. However, according to the agreement, we have to pay for 1.2 million gallons of gas per day whether we use it or not. With 500,000 gallons left, we will have to pay for the whole amount of gas the next day. We have to pay for 500,000 gallons of unused gas per day for ten years. Depending on the water capacity of the reservoirs, hydropower can add up to 25% to 45% to our

electricity grid. Although more hydropower is available, free electricity is available, due to this agreement we have to buy gas. The government has dragged the country to such an unfavourable agreement.

The New Fortress Energy Company selected by the government for this purpose is one of the bankrupt companies in the world today. The company is not even in the top 250 LNG (Liquefied natural gas) businesses globally, and they have no experience with it. The situation is extremely dangerous. By March 2021, the company had to pay a loan of US\$. 1240 million. The loan amount in a year has increased by US\$ 290million. According to revenue reports, the company has reserves of US \$ 360.1 million only. The company's stock price is falling sharply in the American

SL Economy Turned Upside Down by Foreign Exchange Crisis

The era of queues has returned to Sri Lanka. This is neither to obtain 'samurdi' benefits nor to get the covid-19 vaccine although such queues were abundant during the last few months. The newest queues can be seen by the sides of roads to obtain a packet of powdered milk, a gas cylinder or a kilo of sugar even at black market rate.

Nowadays the prices of consumer goods, including the essential consumable prices escalate in a speed greater than that of a rocket which is not an exaggeration. The "Mission of Prosperity" which was Gotabhaya's vision that was popular 17 months ago, is not being quoted by even any media. The list of Wimal Weerawansa, selling items at reduced price in the political stage is no longer available. Those who promised any relief or concessions are not to be seen.

The people who are 'pro-Rajapaksha', more than the Rajapakshas' themselves, are still reluctant to acknowledge the failure of the economic and political policies of Gotabhaya Rajapaksha administration, and as a measure of some consolation argue that the government would not have been in this predicament if not for Covid-19. They forget that before Covid-19, economic growth had begun to falter. They act to be unaware of the fact that the maturity date to pay for international sovereign bonds worth billions since 2010, were set to expire in

late 2020. Although the gap between imports and exports reached \$ 10 billion, the crisis was temporarily closed by receiving about \$ 10 billion from the tourism industry and overseas workers but the debt mountain was on the verge of erupting under the ashes. The people who spoke out about development and prosperity did not care about the impending foreign exchange crisis (the dollar shortage crisis). The covid situation exposed the existing crisis rather than creating a new one. Earlier the manifestation of the crisis was war and now it has shifted to the covid epidemic. That is the only difference.

Results of the foreign exchange crisis

With the dollar crisis in Sri Lanka, the rupee began to depreciate rapidly. The rupee was depreciated by 6.9% in August alone. The dollar was at 150 rupees in January 2021 and by September 2021 the official value declared by the Central Bank was 203 rupees. Despite the central bank's order to keep the dollar at a fixed limit of Rs. 203, the shortage of dollars in the banking system (Public and private banks) caused a serious crisis for customers dealing with state-owned banks. There are several ways in which importers usually pay their suppliers when importing goods. Whichever method is used, the payment should be made by the Sri Lankan banking system. If an importer orders anything like dhal, wheat flour, sugar from a foreign supplier, he has to come

Sri Lanka. One way is to open a letter of credit (LC) through the bank, sell the goods and pay the money to the bank. It is based on the trust between the bank and the importer. Goods can also be sent on a pay-as-you-go basis, subject to agreement between the supplier and the importer. But it also has to happen through the banking process. In the end, the import of goods to Sri Lanka depends on the existing amount of dollars available with the banking system.

The government also needs dollars to settle debts obtained in dollars or to pay interest of the loan installments. The Treasury requests dollars from the Central Bank on behalf of the government. The Central Bank must either obtain dollars from the commercial banks or issue dollars to the government from the Central Bank's foreign reserves. What the Central Bank does is providing a loan to the government. It can only be done by the Central Bank if it has sufficient dollar reserves. For every dollar issued by the Central Bank, it sets aside a rupee amount equivalent to the dollar value, from its printed currency as assets until the government pays the debt. This process has been jeopardized and today an exchange crisis has resulted due to the fact that the Central Bank does not have sufficient foreign exchange as assets to repay government debt or to import goods required by the country. The main responsibility of the Central Bank is to maintain a stable financial position in the country. That is why the Central Bank should function as an independent institution, although it is biased against the government on a practical level today. The total amount of foreign exchange currently (as at end of August 2021) held by the Central Bank is \$ 3550.7 million. Last July it was \$ 2806 million. At the beginning of 2021, the reserve consisted of around \$ 7300 million and as a consequence of releasing funds continuously to settle debts as required by the government and issuing dollars needed for the banking system, this collapse occurred. Therefore, the dollar deficit in Sri Lanka has become a major crisis due to the decline in export earnings; remittances from migrant workers; and revenues from tourism earnings that needs to replenish the dollars spent. At the end of July, foreign assets stood at only \$ 2.8

billion. Out of that, \$ 260 million will have to be paid in one month and \$ 1.4 billion during four months to settle foreign dollar debts.

In addition, imports generally cost around \$ 1.6 billion a month. Expenditure on imports from last January to July was \$ 11.724 million. Despite import restrictions, expenditure on imports over the past 7 months exceeded export earnings (\$ 6802 million) by \$ 4922 million. The loan is to be repaid either by borrowing money or by using foreign assets. The trade deficit should also be covered either by borrowing or from the foreign exchange reserves. Now the only foreign exchange added to the government to fix all this is the foreign account ownership loan facility from the International Monetary Fund. The government was able to convert this facility into \$ 554 million worth of assets, raising its foreign reserves to \$ 3.5 billion by the end of August. But, those were under huge import restrictions.

100% Deposit Limit

A list of 662 essential commodities imported to Sri Lanka has been classified as non-essential and the government recently ordered that if these items are to be imported, the importers need to deposit 100% of the value of the commodities in the banks. This order can only be enforced by a few importers. As explained earlier, many entrepreneurs who import goods and settle payments in agreement with banks during the letter of credit process, faced numerous difficulties as a result of this. Due to their inability to import, the price escalation of the limited goods available in the local market and severe shortage of goods are inevitable.

Cargo Jam at Port

As in the case of fertilizer, the ability to import imported milk powder too is limited today.

That too was a result of decision taken by the government due to the dollar shortage. Although only a few foreign companies with branches in Sri Lanka were able to supply milk powder outside the dollar presentation system before importing, those limits have now been exceeded. Even those companies cannot send the earned money in the form of rupees to their motherland. They too can exchange rupees for dollars through

There is no point in dreaming that the economy can be changed by maintaining this corrupt political system without understanding that the procedure of developing the economy as part of the process of developing politics itself. Both short-term, medium-term and long-term solutions to the crisis lie in the process of bringing together all human and natural resources with a change in the political system itself.

to an agreement with his own bank in Sri Lanka. The Bank in Sri Lanka should ensure that there are sufficient dollars for the goods imported on behalf of the relevant importer and notify the supplier's bank. The importer will be able to redeem the goods after the supplier (a person abroad) submits the delivery documents with the invoice requesting the goods to the bank in Sri Lanka. Once the goods arrive at the port, the release documents (clearance letters) can be obtained from the bank and the goods can be released from the port. This is the general procedure of importing goods and there are several payment methods by importers who import goods to

Reverse gazettes & a reverse country

Rice price control lifted



The order issued by Trade Minister Bandula Gunawardena imposing a price control on the price of rice in the market was recently withdrawn by him. Accordingly, it is the latest in a queue of gazettes that have been reversed after this government came to power. A few weeks ago, the people of this country watched the electrifying scenes of the siege of large-scale rice mills with the imposition of rice price control laws, the appointment of a Commissioner of Essential Services and the advent of television cameras, as if watching an action movie. Accordingly, the government should have taken over the stocks of paddy and rice owned by the rice mill owners and provided the consumer with rice at a lower price. But now, something completely different has happened. It has opened the door for the owners of large mills who used to buy and store paddy at low prices to decide the price of rice at will and put it on the market. In the end, the 'sin' of the government has fallen on

the people's heads again.

While lifting the price control on rice, the Trade Minister said that 100,000 metric tons of rice would be ordered from abroad to prevent a rice shortage in the market. This reminds us of 'Mahadana Muththa'. It is said that 100,000 metric tons of rice will be imported, but it is not certain until it is brought to the country. It is because the government is facing a huge foreign currency deficit. Can we not help laughing, when the government that cannot clear about 800 containers of essential food and flour that had been unloaded at the port and had remained there for weeks, decides to import rice?

On the other hand, this decision is not correct. It is foolish to import rice when there is a shortage of foreign currency, and even the import of essential commodities is restricted. What needs to be done is help farmers cultivate paddy so that there is no shortage in the market. But this government has only the kind of 'Grasping at straws'

solutions.

We have seen the revision of several gazettes issued by government ministers and the President during the past for price control, import and export, and certain services. Why is that? That question is essential to people. The present government has become one with no understanding of the country's real issues, no clear vision or policy, no knowledge of what should be done and what should not be done and is groping in the dark. The present government is trying to do everything except governing the country. The President decides to do whatever he wants, and so do the ministers. But with various bragging, the media shows and quietly rescind decisions made by themselves as significant serious decisions; when they are unable to implement them, that is why the masses call this government 'Gazette Reverse'. What has happened to this? The 'country reversal' is faster than the government gazette reversal. That is, the country

moves backwards at a terrific pace. When a voracious gang of thieves that does not know 'governance' comes to power, nothing else can be expected. Many factors indicate the failure of the government and a lack of vision. There is a great contradiction between the President's "utopian beauty concepts" and the country's reality. At least the President and his disciples do not seem to understand.

The best example of this is the sudden decision to stop chemical fertilizers and agrochemicals. 'Non-Toxic Food' is a wonderful and attractive concept. But the whole of agriculture is now in a state of disarray. This is due to the sudden cessation of chemical fertilizers without plans and necessary precautionary measures to be taken to implement it. On the one hand, farmers have no fertilizer. There is no fertilizer for plantations. Then the harvest and agricultural production will collapse. There is no plan to produce alternative

fertilizers (organic fertilizers) in the country. There is no standard for that. Therefore, various wastes are sold to the farmer under the 'organic fertilizer' labels. Toxic waste is imported as organic fertilizer from abroad. Organic fertilizer has become a racket. Eventually, agriculture and the peasantry have been driven to ruin. That is how the country is made to be in reverse gear.

So is the question of electricity. The President's concept of electricity was to move towards renewable energy. It is a very beautiful concept. Addressing the United Nations recently, the President stated that Sri Lanka would increase its renewable energy generation to 70% by 2030. The government, which prides itself on reducing power generation from thermal power plants, diesel power plants and coal power plants, is working in the country in stark contrast. The best example of this is the sale of 40% of the Kerawalapitiya Yugadanavi Power Plant shares to the American New Fortress Energy. The same company has been granted the monopoly of supplying gas (natural gas) power plants in Sri Lanka. Accordingly, the right to construct a gas storage terminal and a gas distribution pipeline system for Sri Lanka has been given to the same company without any tender procedure. According to the agreement, Sri Lanka will have to purchase a certain amount of gas from that company at an agreed price (higher price) for a period of 05 years as a start. The government has agreed to a 'take or pay' type of agreement whether the country needs the gas or not. Then the country has to buy gas, whether necessary or not, as long as the deal lasts. It is a significant loss to the country. As a result, gas power plants have to be maintained. Then renewable energy is just boasting. In the end, the country

Page 07 >>>

The solution lies only in building people's activism

Comrade KD Lankantha,
President of the National Trade Union Center
Member of the Political Bureau of the JVP

Niyamuwa: *The present regime is trying to sell off national resources that a government has never touched in its history. Meanwhile, the 'Joint Alliance of Petroleum, Ports and Electricity against the Sale of National Resources' was formed recently by uniting three crucial sectors of the country's economy. What is your reading of this lineup?*

Comrade Lankantha: The present government headed by President Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa is a bourgeois, authoritarian and neo-liberal regime. The implementation of Sri Lanka's neo-liberal economic policy began in 1978 with President JR Jayewardene, with the beginning of Jayewardene's rule. 43 years later, the same policy continues to operate. The primary function of that policy is to get the government out of economic activity; to make a minimal intervention. In other words, the application of the principles of classical liberalism into the present. It is also common in our country to commit frauds, corruption, bribery, nepotism and friendliness in this manner. When the government withdraws from economic activities, local and foreign institutions are included in those activities. Also, loans will be obtained from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other banks for the implementation of this neo-liberal policy. Corrupt rulers plundered them with corruption and fraud. We now have a poor country that cannot pay its loans and interest. Now the stolen money has been legalized and laws have been enacted so that the national resources of the country can be taken privately. The Colombo Port and the Petroleum, Electricity and Energy sectors are being used to make the government MPs and ministers puppets and use authoritarian political power to sell government-owned land and

buildings.

In addition to the selling of national resources, this also poses a serious threat to national security. On the other hand, the US and India are in a power struggle with China and vice versa. These rulers have now welcomed this power struggle and brought it into our country. These bombs of their conflict could explode inside our country at any time. At this moment a Cold War between them is raging in our country. Due to this serious situation, we had to build the 'Joint Alliance of Petroleum, Ports and Electricity against the Sale of National Resources'. Almost all except the trade unions affiliated with the government have joined this alliance. There are also attempts to contact those who are not involved. But even though the trade unions are at the centre of this struggle, it is essential to unite all those who love the country around this struggle to win it. Discussions have been initiated with the Mahanayake Theras, the Theros who played a major role in the formation of this government as well as the clergy to raise awareness and seek their support. Discussions began with political parties outside the government and with political parties within the government. While doing all this, other state and private trade unions began to rally around the alliance. Let's unite to end the battle with victory.

Niyamuwa: *We have seen the biggest struggle in the trade union field in recent times in the fight for teacher-principal pay inequality. The direct repression of the government as well as insult and the unity against it and emergence of literature have been seen. How do you see this battle that is not over yet?*

Comrade Lankantha: Teachers, principals and pirivena teachers are paid half of their salaries for 24 years. Nobody works for half the salary. The whole country is indebted to these

professionals. Let everyone accept that this struggle for full pay without asking for a loan is justified. Principals, teachers, as well as children and parents, have been severely affected by the government's delay in administering justice. Those in battle are not ready to give up the fight. The weak always betray. There are several such reports. There are a few who give up the fight.

If this fight is left to the future due to the pressure of the government and the administration, the fight will come again at any time. Rather than society getting into such a predicament again, everyone should intervene with determination and end this. Government repression and slander come when a fight is successful. Everyone needs to know that. We call on the Alliance of the Trade Unions of

Teachers and Principals, to renew the struggle in a new round. The actions taken are now stagnant. Parents, children and teachers alike are now looking forward to the next step in the fight. We have informed the Ceylon Teachers' Service Union to take a step forward in the struggle through an agreement of the Alliance. We propose that the government should resume all educational activities within three months by resolving the issue. Parents and children need to be strongly organized within those three months. If it is not resolved within three months, all should unite and get all the trade unions and teach the government a good lesson. That is a strong way forward. But the final decision rests with the trade union alliance. This is our proposal. In this struggle, a considerable number of new forms of struggle have been created. Especially songwriters like Rathna Shri have written songs. Many others have created artistic work, as well as strong poems and songs to strengthen the fight. It is a very positive situation.



Niyamuwa: *While allegations of failure were being made in all sectors, the government took steps to re-enforce the state of emergency and declare several sectors as essential services. What does the government mean by this?*

Comrade Lankantha: Those are normal things. No need to worry too much. But it is not good to let it be confirmed. It should be challenged from the beginning. People opposed quarantine repression. They tried to arrest us and intimidate us but were unsuccessful. Thereafter CID comes. No one cared. Despite the imposition of the state of emergency and the imposition of essential services, the working class can win demands by its own strength if it intervenes in an organized manner. The people are now in a struggle for freedom and rights; in a struggle for social liberation. When the people come to the place where they say 'arrest us and imprison us- we are ready', the rulers will have to abandon those repressive ordinances and finally retreat to their motherland, the United States. We have past experience with that. In 1953, when the people came to the streets in the face of economic hardship, the then leaders in power fled the country. They met on a ship in the middle of the sea. But those who led the struggle stopped the struggle and brought back those who had fled and kept on the throne. But it is very clear about these rulers that the people will struggle and drive them back to their homeland without letting them come back!

Niyamuwa: *The Covid pandemic has exacerbated the suffering of working people affected by the economic crisis. However, the pandemic itself is hampering the traditional struggle against it. What should working people do to overcome this situation and for the political struggle?*

Comrade Lankantha: The government is facing three crises called the Corona crisis, the economic crisis and the governance crisis. Therefore, the government has a chance to move towards a more

Austria: Red flags hoisted in Graz

Austria's Communist Party has become the largest party in Graz, the capital of Styria, with 28.9% of the vote in the September 26 election to elect a city council.

Accordingly, they have managed to win 15 out of the total 48 seats in the Municipal Council. The Austrian People's Party, which has ruled the city council for 17 years, received only 25.7% of the vote and 13 seats.

In this election, the Communist Party has increased its vote share by 8.5% and the number of seats by 5. However, the People's Party has decreased its vote share by 12% and by 06 seats.

Finland: A strike to save transport

Finnish Metro and Trump workers have been on strike for two days against any attempt to privatize public transport in the Finnish capital, Helsinki. It is proposed to split the city's metro, tram and water transport service, currently run by the Helsinki City Council, into a limited number of companies.

Previously, the city's bus service was publicly owned, and it was later transformed into a separate company, and it was later acquired by the Finnish Bus Company, a private company.

Australia: Anti-Chinese alliance into submarine trouble

On September 15, Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom launched tripartite defence cooperation. The purpose of the partnership was said to safeguard security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. The main starting point of the agreement is to provide a nuclear submarine to Australia.

But the real purpose here seems to be to consolidate US dominance in the region by suppressing Chinese influence.

According to this move, Australia agrees with the United States to purchase nuclear submarines, in violation of the agreement reached with France to buy diesel submarines.

France has got into a controversy with Australia and the United States over the incident and as a retaliation measure, France has agreed to make available 45 million Euros for Cuban vaccine production and to allow the Chinese Sinopharm vaccine to be used in France.

An international coalition to defeat sanctions



Eighteen countries facing sanctions from the United States and the European Union met in New York on September 23 to form a group of friendly nations defending the United Nations Charter. The purpose of this group is to intervene to protect the principles of multilateralism and respect for national sovereignty, which are the principles of the United Nations.

A postscript to 'Taliban rule'



Responding to critics of the sudden withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, US President Joe Biden said, 'Terrorism has spread beyond Afghanistan. Threats from Terrorist organizations such as Al-Sabah in Somalia, Al Qaeda in Syria and the Arab world, and Shiites in Syria, Iraq, Africa and Asia have to be confronted. He said they too had to change their tactics as the threat of Terrorism had spread dreadfully to other countries. It means that the US war on terror has instilled Terrorism. The number of terrorist organizations that could have been shown by a single digit when the US invaded Afghanistan has risen to more than 20 by the end of the 'war on terror in Afghanistan.

US Generosity

During the invasion of Afghanistan 20 years ago, then-US President George W. Bush said the Taliban should pay compensation for providing protection to Al Qaeda terrorists. He added that the Afghan people affected by the Taliban rule were well aware of the generosity of

the United States and its allies.

What has the generosity of the United States and its allies given to the Afghan people? More than 47,000 Afghans have been killed and more than 6 million displaced as a result of the 20-year civil war in Afghanistan due to the invasion of that country by the United States. Afghanistan's economy has been devastated. About half of the country's population faces famine, with the social crisis caused by the COVID-19 epidemic, food shortages and a lack of sanitation and health facilities. During this time, the United States did not build Afghanistan; they only destroyed the country. They did nothing to uplift the industry, agriculture or infrastructure in the country. The invasion of Afghanistan did nothing for the American people either. A total of 775,000 US troops were involved in the operation in Afghanistan, of which 20,589 were injured. 2461 died. The majority of victims have post-traumatic stress disorder, and approximately 18 people commit suicide every day. The US\$ 2.3 trillion that could have been spent

on education, health, and other facilities for the US people has been spent on the Afghan war.

How the Taliban paid compensation

What is the compensation paid by the Taliban for providing protection to Al Qaeda terrorists? With the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan, the Taliban regained control of the country. The United States has left US\$ 85 billion worth of equipment to the Taliban, including 75,000 vehicles, 200 aircraft and helicopters, and 699,000 weapons. (US Congressman Jim Banki) the Afghan people have been handed down a well-armed Islamic extremist and terrorist organization as their rulers. The Taliban named their government. 'Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA)' means 'a government led by a religious leader'. They named a 33-member government, three of which were Pashtuns. Two are Tajiks, and one is Uzbek. There is no representation of Hazaras or women, or other ethnic groups in this government. Mullah Hassan Akhund, the prime minister

of the Taliban government, is the head of the Taliban's top council. He was the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister during the Taliban regime from 1996-2001; He was a commanding officer and is still under UN sanctions. Four other members of this government were released from prison in Guantanamo Bay in 2014 to replace a US soldier. They attended the US Taliban talks in Doha last year.

One of the four, Abdul Haq Wasik, is the director of intelligence for the Taliban regime. According to WikiLeaks, he has been a member of Al Qaeda's intelligence service and has been involved in training the Taliban in intelligence services. Mulla Noorullah Noori, the acting Minister for Borders and Tribal Affairs, is responsible for killing thousands of Shia Muslims and should therefore be named a war criminal. The Taliban's acting interior minister, Sirajuddin Haqqani, is wanted by the FBI for questioning. The US State Department offers a reward of \$10 million for information about his location that will lead to his arrest.

If companies set prices, why need a cabinet?

Comrade Vijitha Herath
Information Secretary of the JVP

“There is no government today. There is no administration. Gas stoves have to be lit not with gas but firewood. The biggest beneficiaries of this are the companies. If the mill owners decide the price of rice, why should there be a government? If the companies decide the prices of essential commodities, why do we have to have a cabinet? Maintaining a cabinet with people’s tax money is worthless. The government has now relinquished control of all sectors. Price control, ownership of state property and responsibilities to the people, have all been abandoned. So why have a cabinet, a government? A government is needed to save the people when they are oppressed. The government has completely absolved itself of that responsibility. Government MPs and ministers are hiding dollars in Pandora. The government is wondering how to get rid of allegations of corruption and murders,” Says Comrade Vijitha Herath, Information Secretary of the JVP.

He was speaking at a media briefing held at the JVP head office. He said:

to the ground

“This government is increasing the prices of goods by the hour. Due to this, the people are suffering unbearably. It is as if there is no ruler or government in the country. As a result, mill owners and company owners set commodity prices. We saw the speech made by the President at the ceremony marking the 72nd anniversary of the Army. He made it clear that he remembered the promises made to the country’s people two years ago. At the 2019 presidential election, it was said that fertilizer would be given for free, a bag would be given at a concessionary price and a concession of Rs. 100 for gas would be given. It was announced on the platforms that a relief package would be provided for other essential food items. Nevertheless, our country’s economy is collapsing. The rupee has depreciated sharply. There is a shortage of dollars. Production has collapsed and the farmer has fallen to the ground due to the stupid decision taken by the President. There are signs that agriculture will go into a complete crisis, and there will be a massive food shortage soon.”

The government that gives up control

“It is in this context that the government is abandoning everything under its control. The Central Bank has so far printed nearly two trillion rupees. Due to this, the prices of goods in the country are going up rapidly. Bank interest rates change. As a result, prices of essential commodities are going up again in another round. However, the salaries and the income of the people have not increased. On the other hand, when trying to buy goods with the same salary, the goods bought then cannot be bought as prices have gone up. The price controls on gas, milk powder, flour, and cement were removed in such a situation. This is not a question of dollars. If the dollar is a problem, there is no need to remove price control on rice. No matter how much the President brags, the mill owners decided the price of rice, including Dudley Sirisena. The President and no one in the government could decide the price of rice. Today, the price of gas, milk powder, flour and cement is decided by the companies. On the other hand, arrogant Mahindananda Aluthgamage imports rice under the same

conditions and sticks onto the same ministry. What they import is not the harvest of organic manure.”

Rs. 200000 million stabilization fund

“There was a massive controversy about the stabilization fund that was set up when the fuel price was increased. It was said that a stabilization fund of Rs. 20,000 million would be established to prevent the increase in fuel prices in the world market. In the end, the stabilization fund has been plundered. People do not fuel their vehicles on debt, and however, that burden has been placed on the people now. Also, They are preparing to increase the price of diesel by Rs. 32 / – and petrol by Rs. 14 /-. When Basil Rajapaksa became the Minister of Finance, those in the government boasted that they would build the economy and make it a paradise. Recently, they boasted that Basil’s first budget would uplift the country’s economy. Nevertheless, we know Basil Rajapaksa is a person who is accused in court of money laundering. Sri Lanka is the only country where a person who has a court case for money laundering is the Minister of Finance. It is a Guinness World Record. However, with the appointment of this Finance Minister, the prices of all essential commodities have gone up.”

Sugar fraud and increase in gas prices

“A cylinder of Litro gas was priced at Rs. 1493 /-. Now it has been increased by Rs. 1257 to Rs. 2750 /-. Laugfs gas was increased by 1947 /-. Cement has been increased by Rs. 93 /-. Wheat flour has been increased by 10 rupees. The price of a kilogram of milk powder has been increased by Rs. 250 /-. Restaurant owners have decided to increase the price of a hopper and milk tea by 10 rupees. It has been decided to

increase the price of a packet of rice by 10 rupees and a pound of bread by 5 rupees. When the price of gas goes up, the price of food goes up. If the price of oil is increased, simultaneously, the people will fall into an abyss. Where are the economic superstars today? Decisions are made in a separate place. We remember the fraud involving the sugar tax. 1,391 million rupees has been swindled with white sugar. The CWE has lost Rs. 90 million due to the purchase of brown sugar from these companies. The government has incurred a loss of Rs. 16850 million due to sugar fraud alone. This loss is only until February 28th. This loss continued even after that. Now that loss is close to Rs. 4 billion. Wilma Company has taken about 45% of this profit. They are making illicit profits, and the people go on suffering. About 75% of households in the Western Province use gas. It is slightly different in other provinces. How can people bear this high price increase? How can they exist when the government that came to power claiming to provide relief to low-income earners increase the price of a gas cylinder to Rs. 2750 /-? There is no government today. There is no administration. Gas stoves have to be lit not with gas but firewood. The biggest beneficiaries of this are the companies. If the mill owners decide the price of rice, why should there be a government? If the companies decide the prices of essential commodities, why do we have to have a cabinet? Maintaining a cabinet with people’s tax money is worthless. The government has now relinquished control of all sectors. Price control, ownership of state property and responsibilities to the people, have all been abandoned. So why have a cabinet, a government? A government is needed to save the people when they are oppressed. The government has completely absolved itself of that responsibility. Government MPs and ministers are hiding dollars in Pandora. The government is wondering how to get rid of allegations of corruption and murders. Because of this, there is no governance in the country. No matter how much the President says about one country, one law, there is no such thing on the ground. People are experiencing that everything is happening without the control of the government. What is being done now is that the creatures frighten the scarecrow erected in the paddy field and damage the crops. Due to this, the people

The farmer has fallen



Reveal Kerawalapitiya Secret Agreement...**From Page 01**

stock market. The government is handing over Kerawalapitiya to such a company without calling for tenders.

According to the calculations of the CEB engineers, the country will suffer a loss of US\$ 800 million only from gas supply to Kerawalapitiya. However, according to the agreement, the company will be responsible for supplying gas to any power plant built in Kelanitissa, Kerawalapitiya and Muthurajawela, and the existing power plant at Kerawalapitiya. It could be around US\$1500 million. Isn't the waste and corruption here very clear?

Also, by taking over the ownership of this power plant, the United States will obtain a license to intervene in our country. The United States can gain control of this country by building a monopoly of 1/3 or maybe 1/2

of our electricity supply. They can decide whether or not to supply electricity to homes and factories. The Indian Ocean is geopolitically tense, and China, India and America are making various interventions. In addition to owning the power plant and supplying gas, they will have the opportunity to park their ship permanently on the West Coast near the Port of Colombo as a gas depot. They were looking for a place to set foot in this ocean area. This project will make it easier for them.

This agreement, which was secretly signed without revealing it to the people of the country and the Cabinet 01. Gives a monopoly on the supply of electricity to the United States. 02. The country is facing severe waste, disadvantages and corruption. 03. The road

is being paved for American intervention. The scam was carried out with the involvement of the top three members of the Rajapaksa family.

It is our motherland that is being destroyed and plundered. The government is selling our motherland after imprisoning the people under quarantine laws. These American citizens will sell our homeland and eventually flee to their home countries. All people who love the motherland should stand up against it, and that is our political responsibility. We demand the government to reveal the secret agreement signed a month ago immediately. We also invite all professionals, trade unions, progressives, and those who think about the country to stop this journey.

Pandemic capitalism...**From Page 02**

the banking system or the black market for dollars. Therefore, if no solution could be found to the dollar crisis in the near future, the existing queues for milk powder, gas, fuel may be extended to dhal, sugar, potatoes and onions too.

Recently, the Prime Minister, as a threat, demanded the immediate release of essential goods stranded at the port. It was only later that someone has informed the Prime Minister that the goods were stuck in the port because the importers had no dollars to pay in order to get these released. Hence, the Cabinet recently had to make a decision to release dollars from

foreign reserves in order to release those items. Now there is no way to earn that \$ 50 million; which is the crisis.

Is the Solution Cabraal or IMF?

In the recent past, there have been plenty of examples to prove that the government has no solution to this economic crisis not even a patch up. Ministers who yelled that oil prices would come down when Basil Rajapaksa became finance minister, do not even give out a whimper.

Although it was claimed that the country will produce enough organic manure by the end of the fertilizer season, it has been decided to import not

only organic manure but also 100,000 tons of rice. When Ajith Nivard Cabral resigned from the post of Minister of State for Finance to become the Governor of the Central Bank, even those who thought that this was "Aladdin's magical lamp" for the financial crisis are now silent. The planned proposals include going to the International Monetary Fund and restructuring the debt to get a future repayment period. Import earnings from the tourism industry and the receipts from foreign workers have plummeted.

There is no point in dreaming that the economy can be changed by maintaining this corrupt political system

without understanding that the procedure of developing the economy as part of the process of developing politics itself. Both short-term, medium-term and long-term solutions to the crisis lie in the process of bringing together all human and natural resources with a change in the political system itself. Before asking the people for sacrifices, limitations, donations, the political power of the country must be handed over to a political leadership that can do all that. Only a bold decision can set the stage for a non-patchwork solution.

The solution lies only...**From Page 04**

authoritarian alternative. Progressives have to give a convincing answer to the government through a broad democratic people's movement. The problem we are currently facing is the scattering of these progressive people. The first thing anyone can do is fight against the government from where they are. Accelerate basic activities such as staying strong for a united front of progressives. Progressives inside and outside the government must work together to build and activate power based on an economically and politically transformative agenda. It is everyone's responsibility to stand up for it. Comrade Karl Marx said that although all philosophers interpret the world, the point is to change the world. Let us apply that statement to Sri Lanka. Let's make a change. If the two are combined, the only thing that needs to be done is to build people's activism to provide a solution to the various crises that have arisen.

Reverse gazettes...**From Page 06**

will be burdened and will lose its resources.

All this shows that the present government, which has no vision, plan or responsibility, is ruling the country in a way that children are building 'play houses'. Clearly, the country is being dragged backwards into an abyss through the devastation of the economy, the shortage of foreign currency, the debt trap, the government's vision, and idiotic decisions.

The present regime is reversing the country in the same way it reverses its gazettes, and this wrong socio-economic and political pattern must be changed. That is the responsibility of the citizens of this country at this moment.

If companies set prices...**From Page 06**

are suffering greatly. The economic burden of the people becomes very oppressive due to the increase in commodity prices without increasing income. Therefore, the people, at least now, need to understand the current situation. This government cannot even sustain the economy as it is. Therefore, we call on the people to rally against this treacherous regime. We call on the people to rally against the government that is destroying the economy and invite them to come forward to change this situation.

Answering questions raised by journalists, Comrade Vijitha Herath said, "The President has said he will change the electoral system by bringing in a new constitution. Now the people of the country do not have a question about the constitution. The President took power. After that 19 was abolished. The 20th Amendment with dictatorial powers was passed. Did it benefit the people? Is one

country – one law enforced? Were the corrupt and plunderers punished? Did the economy get stronger? Are people's problems solved? Nothing has happened. The people have not benefited from the Presidential power or 2/3 power and the dictatorial power of the 20th Amendment. What is the effect of changing the voting system on people who cannot afford bread? Proportional voting is the most democratic form of government in the world today. However, in our country, there is a distorted voting system. There is one for Parliament and another for provincial councils. There is another for local government councils. For all this, one voting system must be in place. Nevertheless, there is no such discussion now. People are rallying against the government. Therefore, the government is now wondering whether it is possible to stay in power by playing a game within the electoral system."

A postscript...**From Page 02****Who profited?**

The Taliban were not the only ones to win from the US war on terror. US arms companies also won. At the same time, companies such as Boeing" Lockheed Martin" Northrop Grumman" Raytheon" General Dynamic also made more than ten times the profits during that period.

In addition, drug traffickers also won from the war. Although the previous Taliban regime had completely stopped the production of opium from poppies, by 2020, the

world's largest opium production was 6300 tons produced in Afghanistan.

Pakistan provides protection, training and assistance to the Taliban. As we pointed out in our previous issue of 'Red Power', establishing Islamic extremist rule in Afghanistan will give a new lease of life to other Islamic extremist organizations in the world. Especially to the Islamic State of East Turkestan, which has been designated a terrorist organization by the United Nations. It adversely affects countries in the region that

are threatened by Islamic extremism. Meanwhile, China, Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, countries that share borders with Afghanistan, discussed the situation on September 8. At the end of the talks, a public statement was issued stating that the Afghan people should decide their own destiny and that it should be their own non-military solution with the participation of all ethnic groups, which promotes national unity and reconciliation.

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Is going to the past the solution to the crisis?

Sri Lanka is currently facing a major financial crisis and a foreign exchange deficit. The situation is so desperate that the government, which embraces the free market economy, has had to restrict many imports. Restrictions on imports do not fit into the free market economy. However, the crisis has pushed the government and the capitalist system to this position.

Meanwhile, about 800 containers of essential consumer goods imported on trust without opening letters of credit have been stranded at the Port of Colombo. It is because money (dollars) could not be sent to the foreign companies that sent the goods, and it shows the extent of the foreign exchange crisis facing Sri Lanka.

As a remedy to the foreign exchange deficit, the government imposed restrictions on imports, restricting or stopping the importation of certain goods, stipulating that the total value of goods on 623 items, including essential goods, should be deposited at the time of issuance of letters of credit. Some goods got stuck at the port and in addition to the increase in commodity prices, there is a shortage of goods due to several factors such as attempts by companies to increase the prices.

Even under the quarantine curfew (a nominal one), people have been queuing for hours to get gas in recent days. There were queues for milk powder as well. The signs of Sri Lanka's return to a queue era are apparent, showing the severity of the crisis.

While the financial crisis unfolds, the government, without trying to alleviate it, does everything to aggravate it, traps the country in a debt trap and allows racketeers to amass profits and tries to absolve itself of responsibility for the crisis.

The government, which is unable to resolve the country's financial crisis and is not taking the necessary steps to address it, seems to be proposing to go back to the past instead. Recent statements made by some government ministers to the media states that Sri Lanka should go back to the Sirima Bandaranaike regime of 1970-77.

The 70-77 United Front regime, which pursued a state monopoly policy under capitalism, had imposed large import restrictions due to the financial crisis. It turned to local products to justify it. But none of that worked. There were rice and chilli barriers. It was an era of queues where people had to wait in queues for all essential items, including bread. Transport of goods was restricted, and there were shortages of everything. The people got fed up with the administration. The result was that the UNP came to power with a five-sixths majority at the election held in 1977.

Therefore, state monopoly capitalism at that time failed as an economic strategy. It was these bourgeois parties and their leaders who embraced the open economy with devotion, saying that the policy followed by the previous regime was a wrong economic policy and that a closed economy would not suit a country. Now it is ridiculous to propose to go back to the economic policy that was abandoned in the past. On the one hand, it is a travesty of history.

Those drifting in the floodwaters of the massive economic crisis created by the plunder of state assets, fraud, corruption and the debt trap of the open economy would like to see state monopoly capitalism as a last resort of escape. However, it is not a reality. The current free-market economy is the economic strategy introduced by capitalism as an alternative when state monopoly capitalism fails. So the solution to the current crisis is not to go back to the confines of capitalism itself.

There is only one solution to the current recession, the financial crisis, the exchange deficit. It is a productive economic model based on socialist principles. This crisis cannot be resolved without building a productive economy that recognizes the country's natural resources and turns them into means of production, involving the entire population in a long-term, medium-term and short-term plan. It cannot be done without minimizing the financial waste of fraud and corruption, without stopping the benefits of the economy from falling into a few families, into the hands of a racketeering elite and developing economic justice.

Nevertheless, it must be emphasized that it can only be done in a deep and broad political transformation. Such a great crisis cannot be resolved without liberating Sri Lankan politics from this cynicism of capitalism, without freeing politics from subjugation, without turning it into a public service instead of a racket, and without changing the attitudes of the people through the examples set by those in power.

Therefore, people need to understand that the current crisis calls for a better future, not to go to the past. It must also be understood that this requires a comprehensive socio-economic and political transformation that will change the existing capitalist economic and political roots.

