

Let's Start From the Village For a new political journey

The people brought the present government to power with new hopes, states the JVP pointing out that the government has proved its failure in front of the country in a very short time. Now, the JVP has started a new dialogue with the people with the message that all must unite around a new force that will create a new economic-political path in place of the failed economic-political path that has existed for more than seven decades.

Comrade Anura Dissanayake, the Leader of the JVP, made this revelation while participating in the inaugural session of the JVP's new 'Let's Start From the Village' political programme launched throughout the country from November 1.

Comrade Anura Dissanayake addressing the media before meeting the people of Maharagama, said, "Today, the failure of the two governing groups to rule our country for decades is very evident. Especially during the last Presidential and General Elections, the people of this

country worked to bring about the present regime with great expectations and aspirations.

Today, however, that regime has proved to be a failure in every way. It is a regime where corruption is rampant, family-centred instead of collective, focused on selling everything instead of economic development. It is a regime that raises the prices of goods instead of providing relief to the people.

Also, the fertilizer problem of the farming community has been aggravated day by day. This regime has proved that it breaks the rule of law, undermines the



judicial process, and acquits fraudsters and the corrupt. As such, the people who voted to form this government and all others have come to a position today that this regime should be changed.

The people of our country have established new regimes after overthrowing the regimes that have existed for a long time with hopes of development. Nevertheless, those regimes have disappointed the people,

and the present regime has proved its failure again in a short time. Therefore, the message is conveyed to the people that instead of a political movement representing the old failed political and economic trajectory, our country should unite around a new force that will create a new economic and political trajectory.

The people have their solutions and ideas to lift this country out of the abyss it has

been thrown into. Today is the opening day of the 'Let's Start From the Village' programme where we discuss those suggestions and ideas. The campaign will be launched in all districts from today. We have planned to carry on this dialogue involving all the party's responsible comrades and citizens at the grassroots level.

We have launched this programme to create new hope for the people on the new road, involve the people actively in it, and especially respond to the invitation to meet the people in the villages. It is clear that this program, which is launched on November 1, will give our country a lot of courage and confidence in its new political journey."

THE TRUE STORY OF 'BLACK' NOVEMBER

This 13th November marks 33 years since the JVP leaders were killed in custody, including the JVP founder and comrade Rohana Wijeweera, ex-General Secretary Comrade Upathissa Gamanayake. It is the undeniable truth that during this period, many other JVP leaders, activists and patriots were murdered by the UNP regime at the time. All these people who fought and gave their lives for the freedom of the motherland and people's liberation live on forever in the hearts of true human beings, and nobody can prevent it.

On this 33rd commemoration of November heroes, there is one important matter that needs our attention- how to refute the falsehoods disseminated and the

picture painted in the eyes of the public by our rivals.

It is said that history is written by the victors. That is in fact the truth. Hence the 'history' of the time period between 1987 to 1990 too has been written not from the perspective of the patriots who gave their lives for the country, or the slain revolutionists, but from the perspective of the rulers who betrayed the country and slain tens of thousands of people who resisted it. Hence what has been publicized as the 1988-1989 "terror" is a history that has been written by the murderers.

During the armed uprising joined by the JVP and patriotic people that commenced in 1987 and ended at the onset of 1990,

JVP was not without its faults. We are all aware that a civil war or an armed uprising is not a tea party. Therefore, in such conflicts, weaknesses and shortcomings on the members of an armed faction are inevitable. However, exaggerating the tragedy of the whole battle and attributing it solely to the JVP is a fraud with a malicious intention. This misconception has been disseminated so strongly by the capitalist ruling factions and their henchmen so that the uprising is referred to by the general public as the JVP 'terror' even today. In fact, it was the UNP government and its divisional leaders at the time who launched terror, killed close to 60,000 people, maintained torture chambers, operated para-

military groups such as 'Green Tigers' and 'Pra'. The exoneration of the UNP from responsibility and ascribing all the blame on the JVP by the capitalist ruling is a grave transgression.

Due to lack of knowledge and the dissemination of many falsehoods, the youths, who were not even born then, now accuse the JVP of wrongdoings such as setting buses on fire and murder. Therefore it is imperative to discuss, at least in brief, how the conflict that was prevalent during 1987-1990 was created.

The incidents that took place during 88-89 were neither accidental nor a consequence of any arbitrary behaviour of the JVP. It was created by the government of J R Jayawardena, who was in power at the time.

Having re-entered public politics in 1976 following the uprising in 1971, JVP successfully functioned amidst interruptions by the capitalist democracy. Holding public rallies, conducting seminars and door-to-door meetings and contesting in elections soon became the main leftist party and the third political force. In 1981 it contested in the District Development Council Election and managed to secure 13 ministerial positions from a number of districts. Further in the 1982 Presidential Elections, comrade Rohana Wijeweera contested and came in third. Thereafter, when President Jayawardena called for a referendum to bypass the 1983 general election in order to extend the life of parliament that had a 5/6 supermajority, the JVP interfered and strongly campaigned to hold the election. When the Jayawardena regime won the said referendum held in December of 1982 through electoral frauds, it was comrade Rohana Wijeweera who contested the result in Court on behalf of the JVP.

Further, the JVP hosted a series of protests demanding to hold the general election that should have been held in 1983. The JVP did all this because victories were possible in public politics despite the many obstacles and wanted to act democratically. Therefore, the JVP had no intention of deviating from public politics and taking up arms. Hence we need to understand

who pushed the JVP and the society to that position. In fact, the Jayawardena regime itself made the conspiratorial decision to commit the said human crime.

Therefore, the Jayawardena regime, which commenced with a 5/6 supermajority, was an anti-democratic, repressive thug regime, in the fullest sense of the word. That is the true history hidden today. The Jayawardena regime, having stripped the civic rights of the leader of SLFP Sirima Bandaranayake for 7 years, thereby suppressed and weakened the SLFP. At the same time, it suspended the great general strike of 1980 by use of force, with over 100,000 losing their jobs. Prior to that, during a protest, UNP thugs attacked and killed a labourer named Somapala.

Furthermore, Mr Ediriweera Sarachchandra was attacked by thugs for criticizing the government, and Mrs Vivian Gunawardhana was attacked on Women's Day. Attacks on JVP meetings by thugs were common. When the Court issued a judgement in a fundamental rights case unfavourable to the UNP government, thugs were used to protest in front of the residence of the judge who delivered the judgement; and the house was stoned. Such was the reputation of the UNP. In the Development Council Election of 1981, thugs who travelled to Jaffna from Colombo looted the ballot boxes in Jaffna, and eventually, the Jaffna library too was set ablaze. That is how they paved the way for the armed conflict in the North. Therefore, speaking of a JVP 'terror', forgetting the repressive and terrorist rule with thug power at that time, is the biggest tragedy of politics.

Although the opposition led by the SLFP was suppressed, the JVP could not be intimidated. As such, Jayawardena knew that when the SLFP was weak, JVP was their political challenge. He had stated this in public on the May Day of 1983. Accordingly, Jayawardena was looking for a way to suppress and destroy the JVP. In the meantime, the July commotion of 1983 took place. Jayawardena made use of that.

The 23rd July 1983 riots were triggered by the withholding

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Government's 'Solutions' That Aggregate Crisis & The Path We Must Take

Sri Lanka's backward bankrupt capitalist system and the Rajapaksa regime that runs it are facing a number of insurmountable crises. On the one hand, the collapse of the means of production, waste, fraud and corruption, the theft of public money, unscientific and erroneous decisions, and the lumpish political culture have destroyed the economy and left the country in debt. The general public is suffering greatly due to queues,

rising prices and the collapse of revenue sources. This persecution has exacerbated the Rajapakse government's, including President Gotabaya's 'solution' crisis.

We know that the capitalist rulers have no solution to the crisis of capitalism. Lenin once said that "the bourgeoisie's attempt to escape the crisis of the capitalist system is like an attempt to lift oneself by the straps of one's own shoes." In Sri Lanka, this has become even more ridiculous. When the country is facing a

major economic crisis and is unable to control the prices of essential commodities, including rice, how should the President's decision to stop the simultaneous import of chemical fertilizers and agrochemicals be understood?

This decision has been opposed by everyone in the country, including farmers and agronomists. This decision will inevitably lead to the destruction of agriculture, the collapse of the rural economy and the occurrence of food shortages. On the other

hand, export crops, including tea, are being destroyed.

Is it the arrogance of the government to make decisions that destroy the main sources of foreign exchange that the country itself is begging for? Or is it stupidity? The President seems to think this is a 'revolutionary decision'. The applause around him also seems to be deceptive and saying it was the right decision. The problem is not the royal jokes around the king but the king's willingness to accept such fake narration. It is very clear from his speeches and deeds that the king is now wearing the 'invisible cloth'.

Meanwhile, the so-called organic fertilizers said to have been imported instead of chemical fertilizers imported have become a racket in one form, and the country is full of harmful substances that pose a new danger to the environment and agriculture. What is the government doing now?

When this error is pointed out, it is not a matter of realizing it and correcting it, but of expelling the officers who point out the error and those with expert knowledge. It closes the path to minimizing crisis and destruction and widens the path to destruction. The Rajapaksas are now dragging the country not towards the path to prosperity but down the path to 'hell'.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa came to power saying he would build 'One country! One rule! Nevertheless, during the last two years of rule, what happened was promoting their own rule within one country.

The story of the Easter attack is similar. The current government came to power using the social shock of the Easter attack to its advantage. Assurances were given at the time that national security would be provided and that the masterminds of the Easter attack would be found and punished. However, once in power, the government ignored it and forgot about the victims of the attack. Eventually, the Catholic community, including the cardinal, pointed the finger at the government for the attack. The suspicion turned to the government. Instead of conducting genuine investigations and dispelling suspicions, the government sought to intimidate those who accused it. The funniest scene took place recently. The President appointed a Presidential

Task Force to build a 'One Country- One Law' through an extraordinary gazette notification on October 26. The President has appointed BBS Chief Galaboda Atte Gnanasara Thero as the head of the force. (Please do not laugh!) It is now clear how the President is going to make 'one country- one law'. It shows the nature of a scientific administration led by so-called 'Viyathmaga' intellectuals. It is not surprising now if someone thinks, "Alas, whither Sri Lanka!"

The President made another remarkable statement recently. That is, he said, "A president is not needed to reduce the prices of rice, sugar and dhal." That they are not the job of a president. Here we are reminded of the story of the fox that said that grapes were bitter. When the corona epidemic spread last year, the same President addressed the nation and announced that dhal would be given at Rs. 65 /- and salmon at Rs. 100 /-. Also, it was this President who raided the wholesale shops in Narahenpita to control the price of rice and issued gazettes and formed a task force to reduce the prices of goods. When all these fail, he now says they are not his job. Honest people who voted for Gotabaya Rajapaksa after being deceived by the 'heroic image' created by the media at the time now have to 'hide their face' and be ashamed.

In general, if the 'king' adorns the clown's garb, it means that the crisis is severe. Therefore, the government's senseless actions in claiming to find a solution to the current crisis show that the capitalist rulers have no real solution to the current, severe economic and political system. Now it is not necessary to peek under the already 'unpacked bag'. This is why the people must enter a new political path.

It is the responsibility of the people who have been deceived, persecuted and ashamed to line up today for a new political journey. Get rid of all the ruling groups that have destroyed the country, the people, and the country's dignity and do not be deceived again. The forces that the people of this country can trust are the JVP and the National People's Power (NPP). The people must come to the forefront. People should be organized from the village level to the ground level. Yes! Let us start from the village!



How to make a prosperous country poor

A rich country and a poor future

Sri Lanka was once so prosperous that in 1956 Lee Kwan Yu famously said that he would make the poor and under-developed Singapore into another Sri Lanka. Lee Kwan Yu fulfilled his promise for Singapore while demonstrating that if our rulers from the yesteryears had made the correct decisions with the country's best interests in mind, today, we could have been on par with Singapore or ahead of it. While Lee Kwan Yu made Singapore a rich capitalist country, our rulers who are power-hungry, corrupt and greedy for personal gain have dragged the country down to be the weakest in South Asia by placing it below Bangladesh economically. At present, the GDP of Bangladesh stands at 324.2 billion USD (2020), and in Sri Lanka, the GDP stands at 80.7 billion USD.

In 1977 the GDP of Singapore was 6.9 Billion USD, while in Sri Lanka, in the same year, it was 4.1 Billion USD. Singapore was ahead of Sri Lanka by a mere two billion USD. At present, the GDP of Singapore is 390 billion USD. The per capita income of Sri Lanka stands at 4,000 USD, and in Singapore, it stands at 40,000 USD.

The landmass of Sri Lanka is small in comparison to many other countries in the world. Therefore, it is not the size of Sri Lanka that makes us rich, but our geographical placement or location in the Indian Ocean makes us rich. There is a valid reason why Sri Lanka was historically considered the "Pearl of the Indian ocean".

Sri Lanka is located along a sea route that connects the continents, a course for 37,000 cargo ships per year. It is the Indian Ocean that has captured 2/3rd of the world oil trade and 1/3rd of all global trade. As a result, Sri Lanka has become an important centre for providing facilities for ships and offering secure ports. Whoever controls the sea route and the ports will earn good dollars. Simply put, our geographical location is a never-ending fountain of dollars for the country. Hence, the importance of Sri Lanka's location in the Indian Ocean.

The above is also why European colonists invaded us in the past: they wanted our ports. We have become an economic target for superpowers such as China, India and the US. They are all eyeing our ports, which are strategically placed to help achieve their financial objectives

and address their own countries' security concerns. Everything is based on the geographical location of Sri Lanka in the Indian ocean.

As described above, Sri Lankan "naval power" has been greatly diminished, at least the lion share of it, due to policy decisions of a weak and greedy Rajapaksa regime. The Ranil-Maithree government started off the process of selling our naval power with the alienating of the Hambantota port to China. The Rajapaksa regime directly handed over a part of the Colombo port to CICT, a Chinese company, and now it has become Colombo's Chinese port. While the agitations of trade unions and political parties prevented the alienating of the eastern section of the Colombo port, the government nevertheless went ahead to sell the western part of the port to the Indian company Adani Corporation. Currently, the government is carrying out preparatory work to sell our natural port of Trincomalee and the oil tank network located in Trincomalee. No country can benefit by selling resources if those are the exact resources necessary to earn dollars and develop itself. Sadly the rulers are converting the people's will into an opportunity to amass personal wealth/ money, and they have a lot to gain, but the

country stands to lose. As a result, rulers become wealthy and the country poorer.

Converting electricity to gas!

In Sri Lanka, the main source of generating electricity is hydropower. The country is exposed to the sun right around the year, enabling a steady source of solar energy. Although we import crude oil, the refining process generates many by-

products, thus creating an opportunity for the State to use those by-products. Firstly, the sections and options available to the State to use the said by-products were sold to private companies. Then it was the sale or conversion of shares of the electricity board indirectly to the private sector. The

latest in the alienation of the energy sector is to convert the network of storage tanks of the Petroleum Corporation and the mechanism to obtain electricity by the electricity board to LNG. It could make Sri Lanka bankrupt.

The most beneficial option for Sri Lanka is to satisfy its energy needs through hydropower while compensating for any shortfall by purchasing gas. Instead of doing this, the government has entered into an agreement with an American company to supply LNG, thus making the energy sector weak and vulnerable. It will have a domino effect on the country as a whole as it opens up an avenue for a foreign company to intervene in the internal affairs of our land and its governance as whoever captures the energy sector will ultimately have immense power over the country's local affairs. All this is just so that those in power can make good on both appalling and alarming commissions.

Exports and foreign income

Sri Lanka is a country that spends money twice as much on imports than what it earns by exporting. As a result, there is a severe shortage of foreign currency at Sri Lanka's disposal to import essentials- this is the major crisis faced by the country today. Our export income is based mainly on exporting tea and garments, but increasingly

there are many similar competitors in the said fields. "Ceylon tea" is an exclusive brand name we had, and we are in the process of losing it now. The tea market has now been captured by countries like Vietnam, Kenya and China. The garment manufacturing sector is facing a similar fate. Europe, which once used our cheap labour, can obtain the same now far cheaper from countries such as India, Bangladesh, and some African countries. As a result, even Sri Lankan owners of garment businesses are shifting their operations out of Sri Lanka to other cheaper destinations. Another aspect of garment manufacture is that we have to import raw material and the cost of the said raw materials is rising. As a result, the income generated for the economy by the export of garments is limited.

Due to the short-sightedness of our rulers and wrong policies adopted by them, it has cost us many opportunities to make us a prosperous country. As a result, Sri Lanka has become a poor country that is falling apart rapidly.

"Ceylon Cinnamon" is a world brand that we have a monopoly over. Yet we only export it as a raw material: we have not manufactured finished products using cinnamon. Pepper, coffee, nutmeg and cardamom fall into the same category as cinnamon- a wasted opportunity.

Nature has gifted us a rich source of mineral sands in Pulmoddai. Even after 73 years of independence, we still export the mineral sand in its raw form when we could have used a process to extract and export Ilmenite, rutile, apatite, which will generate a far higher income to the country. The greedy rulers for earning commissions are lining up for foreign loans to build sports complexes and highways. Still, they are reluctant to obtain a loan to introduce much-needed technology to create a real value to Sri Lankan mineral sands in Pulmoddai.

The fields of imports are different. We are compelled to import petroleum, and currently, importing crude oil is at a standstill. Recently when tenders were floated to import petroleum, only one supplier accepted the offer; that too is a Singaporean company called Vitewill, a company that has been blacklisted for supplying

War drums & power struggles



The security agreement reached last September between the Australia, Britain and the United States (AUKUS) has sparked a significant debate in international politics. It has on the one hand intensified the antagonisms between the imperialist countries and on the other has increased the military heat between the countries of the region. U.S. President Joe Biden called the agreement a “strategic military partnership between the United States, Britain and Australia, built on the need for long-term peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.” In international politics, the areas previously known as the Asia-Pacific region and the Indian Ocean region, especially after the ‘LEMOA’, have begun to expand to include the Indo-Pacific region at the behest of the United States. The Indo-Pacific region extends from the west coast of the United States to the coast of

India. According to Joe Biden, the purpose of this agreement is to face the threats facing them in the 21st century as well as in the 20th. What is the threat in the 21st century? This means nothing but China and Russia. The agreement went further and launched a major project to protect against the “rapidly growing threat”. That is, the United States and Britain are assisting Australia to build a nuclear-armed submarine force.

Australia is a country that is mainly dependent on the import and export of goods. 98% of these goods are imported or exported by sea. Australia is the fourth largest shipbuilder in the world, but most of its ships are owned by foreign private companies. Some time ago, Australia had a very good cargo shipping system, but now Australia has only 12 cargo ships. The Australian Maritime Association says Australia needs at the moment a fleet of cargo merchant ships, not military nuclear submarines. France

was the first country to respond to the agreement. The \$ 90 billion deal between Australia and France for 12 diesel submarines was canceled due to the deal. France immediately recalled its ambassadors to Australia and the United States. In addition, it retaliated by approving Sinopharm vaccine for use in France, and provided 450 million Euros for the production of the vaccine in Cuba. So on the one hand, what is happening is a market-sharing war. The move is a more aggressive intervention to stop the declining economic power of the United States and Britain and regain it. According to Joe Biden, there is no military threat from China or Russia to the United States or Britain. What is happening is the other side of it.. The United States and Britain, thousands of kilometers away from China and Russia, are developing military power in the Indo-Pacific region against those two countries. This agreement is clearly aimed at tying Australia

to a plan designed for US imperialist interests. In a war against China and Russia, Australia is to become a center of attack for the United States. It may be the interest of the Australian capitalist class, but it is certainly not the interest of the majority of the Australian people.

It is worthwhile at this juncture to find out what prompted Britain to enter into such an agreement. After secession from the European Union, Britain seems to be pursuing the dream of a “global Britain.” The aim of the British imperialists is to protect their share of the world economic and political power that is seeping through imperialists’ fingers. Thus, the AUKUS Agreement does not bring peace, security, stability, or prosperity to the Indo-Pacific region. Instead it would bring about the opposite, war, arms race, and instability. It is an agreement to subjugate countries under the guise of a war threat.

Germany: Hospital workers win demands

Employees of the Vivantes and Charite Hospitals Group in Berlin, Germany, ended a weeks-long strike with victory. In early October, workers at Germany’s second-largest hospital group, the Vivantes and Charite Hospitals Group, went on strike and demanded immediate action to reduce the workload on them and address the shortage of staff in hospitals.

More than 5,000 hospital workers, including hospital technicians, laboratory technicians, nurses and midwives, took part in the protests and trade union action. The Berlin Hospital Movement, which led the strike, decided to end the strike after the rulers finally agreed to give the main demands of the strike.

Cuba: Vietnam given vaccination technology

Recently, Cuba and Vietnam reached an agreement on the export and production of covid 19 vaccine. Under the agreement, Cuba agreed to supply Vietnam with its locally produced Abdala vaccine, the most important of which was the agreement to supply Vietnam with the technology needed to produce the covid 19 vaccine. Abdala, technical name CIGB-66, is a COVID-19 vaccine developed by the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in Cuba.

Cuba is to supply 10 million Abdala vaccines, which is in three doses, to Vietnam. The first part of it has already been exported to Vietnam. Interferon alpha 2B, a drug used to treat covid 19, has also been exported to Vietnam in the past. Vietnam exports rice, coffee, chemicals, textiles and footwear to Cuba.

United States: Amazon employees demand to form union

Employees of Amazon’s Staten Island store in New York, filed a petition with the U.S. Bureau of Labour to win the right to organize as a union. The store made huge profits in the face of the covid 19 global epidemic.

They were able to collect the required number of signatures in the midst of the company’s obstructions. They had to wage a massive struggle against the company’s anti-union activities in order to get the union recognized.

Employees of Amazon, one of the largest companies in the world and owned by some of the richest people in the world, such as Jeff Bezos, have been forced to work under extremely difficult conditions.

Due to the busy schedule, its employees are reported to have to do things like urinate and even defecate to bottles and bags on the highway. It is the second largest private sector company in the United States and employs over one million people worldwide.

Italy: Thanks Cuban support during covid epidemic

The Cuban Henry Reeves Medical Corps, which carried international support at the time of the outbreak of the covid 19 epidemic in Italy, established a temporary field hospital to treat patients. Italian people felicitated the Cubans by turning the place where patients were treated into a memorial site named after Henry Reeves. It was initiated by the Italian-Cuban Friendship Association.

Crisis on one way Budget on another

Comrade Sunil Handunnetti
Member of the Political Bureau of the JVP

When the country is facing a massive economic crisis, the government's budget presented without giving any relief to the people proves that the crisis is going in one direction and the budget in another, deceiving the people severely says Politburo member of the JVP Comrade Sunil Handunnetti.

He was speaking at a media briefing convened at the party head office to comment on the budget presented by Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa in Parliament recently.

He said, "A budget is not a reading of the Rajapaksa genealogy or a lament of the government's inadequacy. Nevertheless, what we witnessed was a story like that. If the expenditure is higher than the revenue, it is necessary to say how the deficit is covered. There are no answers to the crisis faced by the people of the country today, the gas queues on the roads, the shortage of fertilizer, the skyrocketing prices of goods or the shortage of foreign exchange.

In short, the crisis is not seen in the government budget, and there are no answers either. Briefly, a cartoon was drawn about this budget. The budget goes one way and the crisis on another. The

cartoon shows how contradictory the budget and the crisis facing the country are.

Government revenue expected in 2022 is Rs. 2221 billion. The cost will be Rs 5245 billion. 1531 billion is the loan repayment. There is a deficit of one and a half times the income of the country. How to fill this gap? It has been proposed to borrow Rs. 3200 billion. Who gives loans to the government? Who gives loans even though they say they will repay the loan?

Total revenue in 2022 is expected to be Rs 718 billion more than this year. However, only Rs. Three hundred thirty-one billion is received from the proposals. Where to find the remaining nearly Rs 400 billion? This budget does not answer that. The crisis facing the people will increase further next year. Farmers expected at least an answer to the fertilizer question. Rice production will decline this Maha season. The answer is to import rice. How to find dollars for that? There are no answers to any of the questions that people experience at present.

Today people do not have the money to remove the clothes they have ordered from the tailor shop. The furniture store does not sell

furniture. Repaired radios and TVs are not removed. Hardware industry crashes. The saloons do not have consumers. The economy has come to a standstill. People especially expected an answer to the foreign exchange crisis. Today only those who take photographs have work to make passports. The youth of our country have been forced to leave the country instead of being trained to bring in foreign exchange and sent abroad for employment. People were hoping for a plan to reduce the burden of the rising cost of living. This budget does not have even the minimum things they had hoped for.

What are the sources of revenue for the government? Basil Rajapaksa had said at a press conference that there were more secrets. It is about tax collection. Whether taxed before the budget or taxed after, that pressure is on the people themselves. The government hopes to earn income by squeezing the necks of the people little by little. A tax on business turnover has been introduced as a social security tax and businesses with a turnover of 120 million have been taxed at 2.5%.

The turnover is the amount of trade that takes place. If you buy a

car dealership, it is the selling price of 3 vehicles. That is not net profit. Maybe this company has a loss. If this company is a manufacturing company, it has to pay tax on that turnover. Turnover also has to be taxed at the point of sale. The same product is taxed several times in the process. In the end, it is the people who pay the taxes. Today the manufacturing industry is unable to find dollars to run its business. Some businessmen are preparing to leave the country because of the dollar issue. We do not understand how the government is trying to spread this economy. Today there are no fines for large scale racketeers. However, legitimate businesses, businesses that pay taxes and do business through banks, have been fined. Mr Basil Rajapaksa is leading the business community to the position that "we too are doing black business; you too do hidden businesses". Instead of pointing out the crisis in the country and looking for answers as a collective effort, they are trying to find income by squeezing everyone's neck.

Due to this the importation of vehicles has been stopped. There is a huge shortage of spare parts. As a result, about 10,000 jobs have gone into crisis. It was hoped that importers of vehicles and spare parts would be given a quota from this budget. Vehicle importers and spare parts importers presented budget proposals. However, the government has put the proposals of the importers who import vehicles legally into the dustbin and brought in proposals to give legality to those who bring parts and assemble here. A plan has also been drawn up to release vehicles stuck at customs. It is said that an income of Rs. 4 billion is expected from it. How many vehicles have been smuggled to get a fine of Rs. 4 billion? The Minister of Finance is going to build the country's economy according to his own conduct. It is a budget that discourages those who work legally and encourages those who work illegally.

The same goes for introducing an insurance policy for car accidents, and it is an action that charges extra money from the insured. It has also been pointed out that allocating money to public servants and retirees is a burden. Rs. 600 billion is being set aside for them and their welfare, including Samurdhi and the Rs. 700 billion 08 month loan interest that is being spent is hidden about. Nothing is said about frauds, corruption, stealing, and paying high-interest rates committed by past and present governments but finds fault with public money being spent on public servants. However, in the meantime, the government has allocated Rs.850 billion to the government's 'Dialogue with the

village.'

Let us suppose that it will benefit the village despite being spent for the next election. However, how much does it cost to import goods for this work? Even if the money is printed, every Rs. 700 from every Rs.1000 has to be transferred to dollars to import the necessities of wire, cement and iron. Where do you get about Rs.700 worth dollars for every 1000 rupees that are printed? Even if money is distributed to buy votes, we have to find the dollars for that work.

The central crisis in our country right now is the foreign exchange crisis. There are no proposals in the budget to find a solution. It is useless for the government to sing baila when the farmer is looking for fertilizer. Agricultural exports earn as much as nine times foreign exchange than the expenditure to import fertilizer. If tea lacks fertilizer, its export earnings will be completely destroyed. It is likely to close down with the plantation industry.

However, the Planters' Association met Mr Basil Rajapaksa and gave proposals. Nevertheless, there is no answer from the budget. They, too, have to take to the streets. The crisis is so great that the oil refinery has to be shut down today. Minister Gammanpila once said at a press conference that it would be closed for repairs as it has not been repaired in 50 years. Elsewhere he says that it will be activated as soon as the foreign exchange crisis is resolved. On another occasion, he said that the country does not need to be told the internal affairs of the oil refinery. They do not even understand what they talk about. The fact of the matter is that the oil refinery that is tied to foreign exchange is going to close. There is no question of repairs. Only Vitol company applied for the tender to bring in crude oil. The company is expected to import a ship of crude oil next month, but there are no dollars to pay for it. Due to the suspension of jet fuel supply, Air Lanka Company will have to be closed down.

The next issue is that the stocks of coal will run out by December. Due to this, the power supply is also a problem and the people of the country will have to stay in the dark. There is no way for the CEB to bring oil to run diesel power plants. At the bottom of that is the dollar crisis. When there is such a crisis, people do not care about the profile of Mr Basil Rajapaksa's family. The profile of the Rajapaksa generation will not quench the hunger of the people of the country. We need to find the answer to the real question. None of the real questions have been answered in this budget. The crisis goes one way, the budget on another. He has

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The true story... From Page 02

of and planned burial of the bodies of 13 soldiers, who had been killed by land mines in the northern province of Sri Lanka, in the Kanatte cemetery, a burial ground in Colombo. The UNP government, however, mischaracterized the situation to justify a campaign of racist violence. The government orchestrated an escalation of the unrest into mass violence, including the looting and burning of Tamil establishments and the attacking and killing of Tamil civilians. The Jayawardena government did not do anything to prevent mass murder and violence. Instead, it took advantage of the turmoil by declaring emergency law and banning three left-wing political parties: the Communist Party, the JVP, and Nava Sama Samaja Party (NSSP). The government falsely claimed that these parties had participated in the racist riots, and it later lifted the bans on the Communist Party and the NSSP. J.R. Jayawardena and his party were the masterminds behind the 1987–1988 violence and unjust detention of the JVP, which moved their political agenda forward.

Although the government had banned the JVP, there were no allegations or judicial proceedings against the party. Despite this, the Jayawardena government continually harassed, arrested, and killed JVP members. In 1984 the police beat Dissanayaka

from Anuradhapura, a JVP member, to death as he attempted to post a sign that advocated for the removal of the JVP ban. At the time, the JVP had not taken up arms, and they were protesting to get the ban lifted.

As the ban continued, the JVP had to resort to underground politics. That was a ‘choice’, but because there was nothing else that could be done. Between 1983 and 1987, JVP members did not engage in violence, resisting the ban of their party peacefully. Since their attempts had been futile, however, in 1987, the JVP began a secret underground political project. It was the only choice left to them—the context that the JVP’s opponents have hidden from the world.

Why did the JVP turn to patriotic armed struggle? It was because in 1987, J.R. Jayawardena’s government signed the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord, a document that betrayed the country’s interests.

When the JVP found out about the Accord and the government’s plan to destroy the JVP, it began to prepare for armed conflict. Although the JVP began collecting weapons in April 1987, the armed struggle did not begin until the government implemented the Accord. Pursuant to the Accord, the Indian Peace Keeping Force was deployed to Sri Lanka.

The JVP was not the only party that resisted the Accord. Soldiers in the

Army and civilians were also protesting it. A great example of this protest is Vijitha Rohana’s assault on the Indian prime minister. Rohana was not a JVP member. Only a coward can handle the kind of betrayal to their motherland that the Accord represented. It was in these circumstances that the JVP entered the patriotic armed struggle. If it had not been banned, this would not have been an armed struggle. As the JVP was banned, it was left with the armed struggle to fight against the betrayal of the country. The JVP did not fight for personal gain but to save the country and with the holy aim of ousting the Indian Army and the Jayawardene regime that betrayed the country.

One example of the Jayawardena government’s cruel policies at the time is the killing of 147 civilians in one day who had been peacefully protesting the Accord. The JVP led all the patriotic alliances against the Indian presence in Sri Lanka. The Premadasa government ultimately had to call off the Accord and ship the Indian Army back home. At the same time, President Jayawardena’s ruling UNP launched a killing campaign using unofficial armed forces and established torture camps. The JVP was forced to continue to fight against these threats.

In 1987, the government banned the May Day meetings. The government killed a union supporter and a few students

who attended May Day demonstrations at the Abhayaramaya temple.

The UNP government also launched various conspiracies and attacks to break down the relationship between the armed forces and the JVP. It arrested and killed innocent people. On 12th November 1989, the government arrested Rohana Wijeweera from his Ulapane home and Upathissa Gamanayake from Bandaragama, then killed both without any legal proceedings. The government then made false allegations against them to the public.

To conclude, the JVP were murderers without considering the context of the then-UNP government’s repressive and anti-democratic rule whitewashes history and exonerates real criminals. This period needs to be studied with an understanding of the underlying political situation at the time.

The people who sacrificed their lives in this era were heroes with their pure intentions. They fought for a common purpose that they believed in. Despite the degree to which the real history of the period has been distorted, the truth will ultimately come out. Their sacrifice and generosity will not be erased. Eventually, ordinary people will understand the problems with capitalism and gather around the JVP to retell the history of this time. On that day, society will respect them.

How to make... From Page 04

substandard petroleum to Sri Lanka on a previous occasion. Suppliers are not coming forward to accept the contract to supply to Sri Lanka as they know Sri Lanka does not have the money to pay them.

In 2020, when imports were restricted due to the foreign currency crisis, we spent 1552 million USD importing food. Overconsumption is a feature of an open capitalist economy that has been imposed on the people against their will, and the result is the people are pushed further into poverty.

Destroying those who have nothing

With the recent gas shortages, people were on the streets with their empty tanks. The milk powder shortage was solved after they were allowed to increase prices. Similarly, scarcity of cement, sugar and wheat flour was answered by increasing their prices. Once the prices were increased all the goods which were supposedly not in the country appeared on shelves overnight. Initially, to control the prices of rice, the government enacted an emergency law. Later, the businessmen were allowed to fix rice prices. Owners of big rice mills announce the price of rice. The gas companies themselves determine the price of gas. The importers of this commodity fix the price of wheat flour. Traders decide the prices of all commodities from the humble plain tea, and the government has lost control.

Yet, the farmers who toil in the land expending their labour cannot determine the price of their commodities. For 24 years, teachers have been paid less for the labour expended, and their request to have their unpaid portion paid is being branded as a crime. Farmers have no fertiliser for their crops. These farmers are not asking for fertiliser to store at home as an ornament but to use it in the fields for producing food. If one wishes to control the skyrocketing rice prices and provide food to the people, that can only be done by completing the rice production or else we will have to start scraping the bottom of the barrel looking for dollars to import rice. The farmer who is toiling in the field, looking for answers to the crisis, is made helpless by the foolish decisions. A country that can be made self-sufficient with agricultural produce is today a country that is sinking further into debt, and a future famine is inevitable.

Money printing bank of Sri Lanka

“Money” is not “value”, and what money does is that it facilitates the “exchanging of values”. “value” is created in the process of producing commodities. If money and notes are printed without increasing the production of commodities, the only thing that can happen is the increasing of prices of goods in the market, because notes and coins have no value in themselves and it can do nothing. It is an eternal truth which the capitalist rulers have never understood. The only solution the government has is printing more and more money. They simply make the economy balloon for temporary power, and no real value is being produced. This balloon will burst unless we direct the country towards value production and stop waste and corruption.

Many ask us, isn’t there any solution to the crisis faced by the country at least temporarily? Unless and until we change the political system driven solely on profit and greed for commissions and personal kickbacks, there can be no solution. Temporary plastering of the problem will not work at all. Any political party, including the Rajapakse regime, making wrong economic policy decisions can only push the country into further poverty. It can only be changed by the people who must take the first step to change the corrupt and wasteful political system.

Crisis on one way... From Page 06

not even turned to look for answers.

At a press conference after the budget, Mr Basil Rajapaksa had said that the public service is a burden. However, amid this covid epidemic, are all health staff, including public health inspectors as well as gentlemen of the Army, Police a burden? Also, do those who work during election time, when disaster strikes and work in SLPP offices with government-approved leave a burden?

We thank Mr Basil Rajapaksa for reminding public servants of the foolishness they committed. Mr Basil Rajapaksa, a minister of the government that was elected with the highest number of postal votes, now says the government service is a burden. What we have to say is that the burden that cannot be contained is the burden of the ‘state’ family. The public servants,

the farmers, and the people of the whole country are now feeling this burden. Due to the Rajapaksa family and the gangs and business gangs around it, all industrialists and businessmen in this country have to pay taxes. The burden on the people of our country is not the maintenance of public servants. It is an unbearable burden to maintain the Rajapaksa family and their close associates who commit thefts, frauds, and corruption.

The pension of MPs has been extended from 5 to 10 years. We always proposed to abolish the pensions of the MPs. In 2001 we presented this as a private member’s motion, and that proposal was defeated by both these parties together. Why take separate money for health from the President’s Fund when MPs have a pension and

a separate insurance scheme? They should be abolished. Vehicle permits should be revoked. They should stop having guards and escorting as there is no war.

Mr. Basil Rajapaksa concluded his budget speech by involving Mahagama Sekara, one of the greatest populist writers of our country. Therefore, I will end our comments on the budget with that attachment. I change that poem with the utmost respect for Mahagama Sekara. Mahagama Sekara did not think that these people would be used for such a thing back then. Therefore, a small addition is made to the poem with due respect.

“Dharme, Kasim, Rajasundaram, come here... Let us all get together, chase away these thieves and make this world a better place.”

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Leave the country or Build the country?

With the recent relaxation of the COVID19 travel restrictions, it seems that the people of this country, especially the youth, are trying to go abroad in large numbers. The long queues in front of passport issuing offices and visa issuing offices and the comments made by those in the queues to the media made it clear that many of these people were leaving the country frustrated with the country and the country's politics.

What exactly has happened? In the last presidential election, the young generation and professionals of this country did their utmost to help Gotabaya Rajapaksa win with the sincere hope of a disciplined and beautiful country. Even Sri Lankans living abroad at that time came to Sri Lanka at their own expense to make Gotabaya President and create the 'best country to live in'.

However, what has happened now? The people who brought the government, including Gotabaya, to build the 'best country to live in' are fed up with the country. For them, now Sri Lanka is not the 'best country to live in' but a country that needs to be abandoned.

The people of this country, including the youth, had great expectations of the Gotabaya regime and building a beautiful Sri Lanka; their involvement on social media, creating various social media groups, composing songs, and posting on public forums were significant. They were done in the sincere hope that they would make a difference in the country.

This expectation was so strong that as soon as Gotabaya Rajapaksa won, the youth took to the streets voluntarily, spent their own money for a beautiful country, spent sleepless nights and started a wall painting campaign. They could not have imagined that those paintings would be concealed from the public eye by the weeds growing near the walls.

Another group of young people volunteered to cultivate barren paddy fields, and it was carried out as an encouragement and an example to take the country towards prosperity. But what has happened now is that though the Rajapaksa regime started cultivating barren paddy fields, the paddy fields that were being harvested have now been made barren. It is due to the President's hasty and short-sighted decision regarding fertilizers and agrochemicals.

Gotabaya, who came to power with a 'vision of prosperity', has now proved that he has no vision and is a political infant. Addressing the nation at the beginning of his tenure, he said he would give dhal for Rs. 65 / - per kilo and salmon for Rs. 100 / -. He visited Narahenpita wholesalers to control the price of rice but recently said that issues such as reducing the prices of rice, dhal and sugar were not the President's job.

Moreover, the just, law-abiding and disciplined country that the country's people hoped for no longer exists. Even the family members said that no one could play with Gotabaya. However, now the family rule has been established. Everything has become a jumble, and there is chaos and anarchy. 'Viyathmaga' is nowhere to be seen. No one is responsible for anything.

On the one hand, environmental destruction continues and on the other fraud and corruption is rampant in the country. The economy has collapsed, and prices of goods have increased, and people are in various queues. Inefficiency and failure are beginning to appear on all sides.

Although much effort was made to make Gotabaya President with sincere intention, all hopes have been dashed, and those who strived to build a beautiful country with Gotabaya and his regime have been humiliated and discarded. Many are unable to cope with the society in which they live. The Rajapaksa regime has betrayed them. It is in this context that the youth have decided to leave the country. They may feel that they have no choice but to flee.

Nevertheless, leaving the country is not an answer to the crisis that has been created. We must build this country; It can be built. What is needed now is the courage to embark on a credible new political path that can build the country with lessons and experience from the distant past as well as the very recent past.

The good people leaving the country or remaining silent, allowing the rulers who betrayed the people's good intentions and destroyed the country to remain and further devastate the country and the people, is not a solution. Instead, they should select an alternative political path to build a beautiful country and the righteous society they aspire for. In this factor, the only movement the masses, including the youth in this country, can trust is the JVP, the NPP, and the programme they put forward. The good people have no other alternative other than rallying with the JVP and the NPP.

Comrade Lalkantha writes to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa



The government should increase the salaries of all employees by at least Rs 10,000 in the forthcoming budget in view of the rising cost of living states a letter sent to the President by Member of the Political Bureau of the JVP Comrade Lal Kanthe as the President of the National Trade Union Center (NTUC).

The letter also states that if the government fails to do so their trade union centre would mobilize all its forces in the areas of state, semi-state and private estates, along with other trade unions and civil society organizations and lead a "struggle for survival" of the working people.

The letter:

"It has been more than two years since your government came to power by promising to increase wages to meet the rising cost of living for all working people in the country, representing the state, semi-state, estate and private sectors. We express our strong opposition and displeasure to your administration for abandoning the quality of a government accountable to the people by allowing the prices of essential goods and services to rise uncontrollably.

As a result of this irresponsible rule, the prices of commodities have gone up and have increased at the following rates since 2019. A litre of petrol by Rs. 20 / =, a pound of bread by Rs. 10 / =, a kilo of rice by Rs. 30 / =, a kilo of milk powder by Rs. 200 / =, a kilo of dhal by Rs. 100 / =, a kg of sugar by 25 / =, a gas cylinder by Rs. 1164 / =, a coconut by Rs. 25 / =, a bar of soap by Rs. 20 / = etc. Prices of all goods and services have gone up. Even now, the cost of living is rising daily, and its rate is incalculable. The figures, data, Central Bank reports, and the Department of Census and Statistics reports would confirm this. Also, due to the massive increase in the prices of all construction materials, including iron, cement and electrical equipment, many working people have given up the dream of taking a loan or building a roof over their heads. The inability to afford the cost of school equipment and transport is also an obstacle to children's education. Rising prices for all medical services, from pills to other medicines, have put lives at risk, making it difficult to meet those needs. Retirees, who are senior citizens, are facing a serious problem due to this.

Even in such a situation, the working people will not be able to bear the cost of living as their wages have not been increased during your tenure, and they are

denied even the essential elements of life. In addition to not increasing wages in line with the rising cost of living, the government has failed to pay even the wages due to working people. Its manifestation is that teachers, principals, health workers, development officers, retirees and plantation workers are already fighting for their rights. The promises made during the election that your government will work to provide a satisfactory salary to private-sector workers and a formal pension to them have become mere illusions, as have many other promises made during the election.

At the same time, as the prices of goods and services in the country rise, so do all those with personal potential, both as individuals and as groups, trying to increase the wages of their own sector. As a result, it has once again affected the lives of working people in the state, semi-state, private and plantation sectors who cannot decide their own wages.

Even so, the administration has not properly appreciated the contribution of the working people who have been providing essential services and providing labour to build the economy without further destabilization of the country despite severe difficulties. Even when public transport services were discontinued, it was no longer possible to carry out the work done by providing transport facilities at one's own expense in the name of essential services in the face of such a huge increase in the cost of living. Therefore, it has become imperative and compulsory at this time to obtain an adequate salary increase.

Therefore, considering the increased cost of living in the forthcoming budget, the government should take action to increase the salaries of all employees by at least Rs. 10,000 / =. The necessary laws and regulations should be formulated for that. If not, our Trade Union Center is ready to mobilize all its forces in the areas of state, semi-state and private estates, along with other trade unions and civil society organizations, to lead the "struggle for survival" of the working people. If there are any unintended consequences, your administration should be held accountable. Therefore, considering the forthcoming budget as a critical juncture, the salaries of all employees should be increased at least by Rs. 10,000. We would also like to emphasize that if the government does not do so, we will have to take action to fight for the rights of the working people.