



We're ready

to accept the challenge of salvaging the country

Sri Lanka's Economy

A Kite with a Broken String

The loss of income meant to cover everyday living expenses; the decline of the actual value of the income due to the continuous price hike in essential goods, including that of fuel, rice, sugar, milk powder; shortage of goods in the market; and issues arising on the quality of such goods some of the major problems the general public currently encounter in this country. It is an inevitable consequence of an unfair anti-democratic economic system that is being followed by the present government, which came to power promising prosperity for all, a system that has been followed by all previous governments which always prioritized not humanity but only their gain at all times. The current government is using the pandemic to mislead, though unsuccessfully, the public who brought them to power.

However, as the vicious economic system keeps suppressing the general public, the leaders who are doing all they can to protect and continue the system are being exposed to society as never before. Moreover, instead of finding sustainable and correct solutions to the problems that plague the people, the government- by making opportunistic and arbitrary decisions- ensures prosperity to their own circles, to those who worked to bring them to power and also to a handful of people who strive hard to amass wealth opportunistically.

In such circumstances, people have to live with constant fear. For instance, now what bothers people is the never-ending hunt for secure non-explosive gas cylinders, which has taken the attention away from the real issue of increased domestic gas prices. By changing the composition of gas and increasing the prices, companies were given



ample chances to maximize their profits. Instead of trying to uplift people's lives and eliminate their fears, gaining profits by creating more market opportunities in such a scenario is an inherent feature of this cruel economic system. Instead of finding solutions to the real issue, selling kerosene oil or electric cookers for high prices, introducing new equipment indicating gas leakages to the market and persuading people to buy them are practical examples of how this cruelty manifests.

In order to overcome this issue at this moment, it is clear that we need a collective effort based on social principles that prioritize nothing else but humanity. The current government has neither any potential nor intention to move towards such an attempt, and it is impossible for such a neo-liberal economic system.

The government neglecting price control by offering various excuses paved the chance for the authoritative groups to increase their profits opportunistically. The initial step of this is the creation of shortages in market goods, which is happening currently in different ways. Thereafter, as

the second step, they will gain the ability to gradually increase the prices of goods without any objections. Likewise, the prices will be increased by the corrupted business monopoly while the imposition of indirect taxes on people by the government to settle the government expenditures and dues is something unavoidable.

When considering the scope of the economy, it is essential to rapidly increase the production of goods and services and acquire a considerable portion of foreign exchange. The economic development ratios from 2010 to 2020 indicated in the following table denote that though a crisis has been created due to the debt taken in the name of the economy, no single advancement has occurred in terms of production and income of the country. The economy, which was gradually declining even before the outbreak of the pandemic, has decreased by 2.3 per cent in 2019. Compared to other nations in this region, the massive rate of decline in Sri Lanka's economy clearly shows how critical the situation is. When an economy fails to deal with an emergency situation, it is an indication that there are serious issues within such an

Year	Year Economic growth
2011	8.40%
2012	9.10%
2013	3.40%
2014	5.00%
2015	5.00%
2016	4.50%
2017	3.60%
2018	3.30%
2019	2.30%
2020	3.60%

economic system.

During this period, the average annual economic growth rate was 4.4%, and government debt grew at an annual rate of 13%. This can also give an idea of how loans obtained are not involved in the economic development process and how a large number of them have been misused due to fraud, corruption, and waste.

As the revenue is not sufficient to cover the expenses of the government, more taxation, borrowing and printing of money ensue to cover the deficit. The government's solution was to print money on the illusion that increasing monetary expansion through Quantitative Easing and Modern Monetary Theory could solve the crisis as advised by neo-liberalism. Various arguments were put forward that it would not have an inflationary effect. In fact, in such a currency expansion, inflation does not occur all at once (gradually the effect is now being felt in the market) and production does not grow as expected by the government. They move to mediums that can make instant profits with speculative intent in the financial markets.

On the other hand, the government's decision to keep the interest rate at 4%-5% for a long period of time to cover up the crisis and to control the foreign exchange rate unnecessarily- even in the face of a gradual decline in foreign resources- has exacerbated

the negative impact on the public. In the same way, Turkey, which unnecessarily controlled interest rates as a solution to the crisis, is now facing adverse consequences. As a result, the Turkish Lira depreciated by 30% against the Dollar in November. It is a well-known fact that in Sri Lanka, even when the Rupee is forcibly controlled at 203 against the Dollar, importers have to buy Dollars from the informal market at Rs. 240-250 to pay for imports.

Also, Sri Lankans living abroad resort to informal means of remittance to the country to earn Rs. 240-250 per Dollar. Aware of this, the government has proposed an additional allowance of Rs. 10 per Dollar. However, its ineffectiveness shows that there is no solution to the deep economic problems facing the country today. Sri Lankans overseas have lost about \$ 1500 million in remittances by 2021 due to undue control of the Dollar. Otherwise, the official foreign reserves could have been somewhat increased. Foreign reserves, which had plummeted to \$ 1.5 billion, were now reported to be nearing the \$ 3 billion mark. While that may be true, the depth of the crisis is likely to increase in the future as the money raised through Swap Loans at the moment has to be repaid in Dollars in a very short period of time. In order to increase reserves on a sustainable basis, remittances from Sri Lankans abroad, earnings from exports, earnings from tourism, and long-term foreign investment must be increased. Borrowing should be done according to strategic importance and development planning priorities. The neo-liberal economic system has no such vision or programme.

The inevitable consequence of the short-sighted and opportunistic measures taken by the government will be to further grieve the masses, increase social inequalities caused by the inequality of income distribution, and sacrifice humanity, environment, ethics, culture, civilization, education, health and everything else for personal gain and power-centric projects. That is why it is necessary to build a truly revolutionary methodology to replace this anti-human and anti-social mechanism, which is possible with the contribution of every individual. It is through such a collective effort that a beautiful nation can be created, and the people can have a beautiful life.

End of the journey for capitalism in Sri Lanka

“The capitalists’ attempt to find a solution to the crisis of capitalism is like a man trying to lift himself by pulling his shoelaces,” said

Lenin once. It does not mean that there is no solution to the crisis of capitalism, but that there is no solution to the capitalist ruling class in the capitalist system.

It is the logical end to 73 years of capitalist rule in Sri Lanka and more than 40 years of neo-liberal, open economic strategy. Sri Lanka is not in a simple crisis now. If a country’s economy fails to generate the minimum amount of assets required for it, if it suffers from an unaffordable debt burden, if it has to sell avenues of gain as so-called ‘solutions’ to the crisis, it is not a simple crisis. Nor is it a crisis that can be solved within the existing system. This is why an alternative solution is needed.

Sri Lankan capitalism has, for some time, been pursuing a state monopolistic economic strategy and then (since 1978) a neo-liberal open economic strategy that has come to an end. Capitalism in Sri Lanka is now dead. It is also true that this ‘death’ was hastened by the frauds, corruption, foolish decisions and waste carried out by all past and present capitalist rulers. Therefore, plastering and artificial respiration cannot revive the capitalist corpse. Now it is rotting in front of us and oppressing the people.

Sri Lanka’s current arrogant, stupid ruling clique cannot solve this crisis. They cannot solve the crisis and even understand the crisis. They live in dream worlds created by themselves or by their pseudo-wise-men. They deceive the people by giving them false hopes about a ‘good future.’



No one would have made the so-called organic fertilizer decision that has ruined the country’s agriculture and food security if there had been a glimmer of understanding about the country’s growing crisis and the global economic crisis. If it were not for the stupidity and arrogance, the rulers would not continue to uphold that decision even when the devastation caused by that decision is vividly before everyone’s eyes. If the rulers themselves exacerbate the crisis of capitalism, what the people can do is rally to oust such a ruling class.

It seems that the present rulers of our country in crisis are moving further and further into the abyss. Instead of improving the country’s means of earning money, they lose them every day. When they do not have the required dollars to release the containers containing essential goods in Colombo port, they pay compensation for a shipload of contaminated fertilizer imported from China; They also steal from nano urea

imported from India. That is one side. On the other hand, as the crisis escalates, they pursue myths instead of seeking scientific solutions. The President of the country takes advice about the country from the famous Gnanakka of Anuradhapura. Meanwhile, the Prime Minister goes to the Tirupati Temple in India with his family to seek blessings. He bathes Shiva’s penis with milk. That is, for their protection. Alas! What a tragedy!!

During the last presidential election, some in the government called Gotabaya Rajapaksa, a combination of Mahathir Mohammad and Lee Kuan Yew. That is, Gotabaya was considered a hybrid president. He was seen as a symbol of disciplined rule in the country. Nevertheless, the crisis has flattened that fiction to the ground.

Now there is no ruler in the country. The country is anarchic. ‘Military solutions’ also fail in the face of economic crisis. Finally, rice has lost its price control. Now the price of rice is decided

not by the government or the executive President but by two or three big rice millers. Wholesalers control vegetable prices. Prices of bakery products (including bread) have been deregulated. As such, the government has abandoned the rule of the country. There is still no solution to the gas crisis. People live in fear. Gas stoves explode, causing gas leaks and causing extensive damage. But no one takes the responsibility for it. The President, who was elected for the country’s security, has not even been able to provide home security. It shows the extent of the crisis. If the country continues to move in this crisis, the devastation will be even greater. It is why people should end this here and line up for a separate journey.

Marx once said, “History presents only problems that it can solve.” This means that there are definite solutions to the current crisis we are facing. However, no solution can be found to this enormous crisis within

the existing socio-economic system that created this crisis and the past and present ruling factions that contributed to this crisis. Even if one does not want to admit it, that is the truth. That is the lesson that has been taught throughout history. So it makes no sense to retry those who have failed again and again.

So what do we do? In the face of the current crisis, this cannot be resolved simply by blaming the rulers and expressing anger. It is useless for people to blame each other. It is also not right to give up hope and get out of trouble or country. Now the people must take a new path. We must act with understanding to establish a new socio-economic system in the country. To do that, a mass movement of people must be created under the leadership of a political movement capable of mustering people for a great cause. The country and the people must take the crisis as an opportunity and unite around a winning solution.

Convention of the Jathika Jana Balawegaya (NPP) An essential postscript...

The National People's Power Delegates' Conference was held at the Monarch Imperial Conference Hall in Sri Jayawardenepura on the morning of the 20th. It symbolized the beginning of a great programme to bring about a solution to the motherland that has been and is being shattered by greedy, corrupt politics for seventy-three years. The conference was a glimmer of hope at a time when Sri Lanka is reeling from a seventy-year failed socio-economic and political crisis and at a time when traditional parties, including the government, are displaying their failure in the face of that crisis.

The work of the conference began with the simultaneous lighting of a lamppost of wisdom by all the guests, illuminating the land, demonstrating the collectiveness that the National People's Power upholds,

rather than the traditional lighting of individual lamps. Prof. Chandana Abeyratne, Chairman of the National Intellectuals Organization (NIO), then announced the leadership of the National People's Power and the membership of its National Executive Council. Specialist Dr Nihal Abeysinghe, Secretary, National People's Power, welcomed the guests and delegates from all walks of life representing various sectors and organizations. Following a short video presentation on the National People's Power, Attorney-at-Law Lal Wijenayake, National Executive Member of the National People's Power, who is playing a role that connects two eras of leftist politics in Sri Lanka, made a statement.

Then came the moment to publicize the document 'A Quick Approach to Overcoming the Crisis', which contained

the basic ideas needed to achieve the deep and broad socio-economic change demanded by society. Dr Harini Amarasinghe, Member of Parliament, National Executive Member of NPP, who combined the rare representation of women in Sri Lankan politics and the involvement of scholars, then addressed the House. The next space on the conference stage was reserved for senior musicians, including TM Jayaratne to present their lyrical experience. Mr Chathuranga Abeysinghe, National Executive Member of the NPP, raised the voice of the Sri Lankan entrepreneurial youth who are sensitive to social movements. Comrade Saroja Savitri Paulraj, Member of the National Executive Committee, addressed the gathering in Tamil. Veteran musician Nadeeka Guruge and his entourage entertained the

audience with their musical experience. Prof. Liyanage Amarakeerthi, National Executive Member of the NPP, who combined the field of art and the involvement of scholars in Sri Lankan politics, then addressed the gathering.

Comrade Anura Kumara Dissanayake, leader of the NPP, who represents the collective leadership of the NPP, addressed the gathering. Next, Mr T.M. Jayaratne and group presented the lyrical experience of 'People who are accustomed to the sun and rain'. Indrachapa Liyanage concluded the NPP Delegates' Convention with the NPP's theme song, 'Be the Compass that shows the path'. The beginning of a great programme that brings a solution to build the motherland was thus profoundly marked in the Sri Lankan society.



Let us join the path of solution instead of the way of destruction

Comrade Anura Dissanayake
Leader of the NPP

For decades, the actions carried out by capitalist rulers have done all the devastation to the country and the people. The economy is heading to a catastrophic end. There is a massive shortage of goods and a sharp rise in prices. More than 1,500 containers of essential goods have been held back at the port. Doubts have been raised about the repayment of loan instalments. The lives of ordinary people are in deep crisis. Can the traditional political trajectory that has existed so far solve these deep-seated crises? Today, people, through their

experiences and lives, have learnt that the old, conventional political path cannot take our country forward.

This was not a natural disaster. These are the consequences of the wrong economic and political path followed. If our country was plunged into this catastrophe with the wrong economic and political policy, the answer lies in establishing the correct economic and political policy in the motherland. Many people who have a decent source of income and want to be respected for their profession leave the country.



They leave the country not only in search of employment but also in terms of social security.

Everyone is convinced that our country must be saved from this destructive political trajectory. No matter how much you struggle individually, it doesn't work.

No matter how hard they tried, the quail caught in the Vedda's net could not escape. But in the end, Bodhisattva quail clarifies to

other quail that only a collective effort could save them. That is precisely what has happened to us today. We are ready to take over this country. Also, this country is ready to be built. We have a sincere and holy desire for that. No one on this platform or any of you who have participated here has participated on personal grounds. We all have a thread that binds us together. We are

ready to take over this country and build this country. This is not a country that should be allowed to collapse.

The main factor wreaking havoc on this country is hugely corrupt politics. The rulers steal the antigens of people on the verge of death from the covid epidemic. Rulers who steal from Sri Lankans employed abroad through the quarantine process would not build a country. While those who cultivated Yala and Maha seasons for generations are without the necessary inputs for agriculture, the rulers steal from Chinese fertilizers.

Therefore, this corrupt politics must first be stopped. These corrupt projects weigh heavily on our country. Corruption is not just a bribe committed at that moment.

The impact of

There is no other way to build the country except through the National People's Power

Specialist Dr Nihal Abeysinghe,
Secretary of the NPP



We are expanding the NPP to become a massive people's force. We elected the National Executive Council. This National Council will next mediate in the formation of District Councils. We are forming divisional councils of the NPP to cover all Pradeshiya Sabhas, Urban Councils and Grama

Niladhari divisions. These councils will be made up of loyal, honest and good people. We believe that building this country will not be so difficult.

Many who went after other political movements are now lost their way. So we have to turn the NPP into a national movement that fulfills their aspirations. We give them hope. We need to win them over and provide them with the responsibility to change this country and be partners. We must build an honest, trustworthy mass leadership and give them the opportunity to join in the great work of building this country.

All honest, non-corrupt, patriotic people are invited. I invite the people living in every corner of this country to join the NPP. You have no choice but to build the NPP to salvage our country. This is your country too. This is the country of all of us. This country should be saved for the sake of the country's children. This country must be built. We invite you to contribute as much as you can.

Our country should be made a beautiful place

Dr Harini Amarasuriya,
Executive Member of the NPP



The main reason for building the NPP is to put our country and our lives in a better, beautiful, convenient place. We believe that we should have a culturally advanced human society that cares for each other instead of oppressing one another and nurturing nature

instead of destroying it. We have a plan, commitment, political leadership and practice to build such a country. We also know that there are many individuals and organizations that believe in building such a country. We have created a platform to bring them all together.

We can create a society that values individuality and preserves individual freedom. Competitiveness requires a balance between human qualities. Loss of that balance has motivated individuals to seek solutions to problems individually. But today, we face common structural issues. Our education, health, transportation all have structurally common issues. Therefore, a structural transformation is needed to change these conditions. It can be transformed collectively, not individually.

The whole world is looking for a new path. A new way is open now. Covid taught us some lessons about the transition from the crisis. The world is now pushing for that transformation. The NPP was built on the belief that we can transform this world. Come! Let's work; Let's take over the work; Let's dedicate ourselves; Let us unite to create a new world, a world more beautiful than today; Let's build it.

An alternative programme will be introduced to the country

Attorney-at-Law Lal Wijenayake
Executive Member of the NPP



At present, our country has collapsed economically, politically, socially and culturally on all fronts. It has failed to unite the various communities in the country and build a Sri Lankan identity. Rulers who ruled the country for seventy-three years since independence have

brought the status of our country down so that, in the region, it is ranked just above Afghanistan. The politics that made the country that way should be defeated. We must defeat, not just individuals. Their politics should also be defeated. Our society is a broken society.

The country has collapsed so much that everyone in the younger generation wants to leave. They are looking for various ways to do that. Their complete confidence in the country has been shattered. They do not believe in a future. It is the most dangerous situation. This conference is being held today to introduce alternative politics to the country. Also, to present an alternative programme and an alternative leadership. We will work to bring the set of policies of the NPP across the country and bring about a dialogue with the people.

If there is a need to make some changes to those policies, it is possible to do so. We hope to form a government that needs to rebuild this country that has collapsed. The NPP is not limited to a few parties or groups. We will build it as a common centre for all those who come together to rebuild the country that has collapsed through alternative politics. We also appeal to the people to rally around the NPP.

Take the lead from within the field you represent

Chathuranga Abeysinghe
National Executive Member of the NPP



For the past three years, I have been looking for an answer to a question. It is the question my daughter would ask me in another ten years. She would ask, "Dad, I am well educated; I have no job. I do not feel safe. I want to go to another country to live a good life, should I go?" Because there was no

answer to that question, I decided to take a break from my professional responsibilities and actively contribute to politics.

We have to make a political choice from what we have chosen so far. I would like to give some criteria for that. We must first look at the motives of those who come to politics. It must be seen whether it is a general-purpose or a personal purpose. We need to see what their practice is. We need to see how they live. We need to know if they have empathy. And there has to be a team. We have experienced the devastation wrought by an individual in power. It must be a collective effort. They must line with one vision.

In the world, the most in-demand subject is data science. Data science gives management the knowledge they need to use data, make decisions, and solve problems. We can use data to solve problems that a country has. It can be used to predict. But our rulers do not want to make use of it. We have transferred our power through universal suffrage to the corrupt business elite. We must regain that power. We definitely need a team to go to that solution. It is the team we're creating. We propose to the youth community that they take the lead from where they are.

The National People's Power is where the new breath springs from

Prof. Liyanage Amarakeerthi
National Executive Member of the NPP



We need human protection. We have embarked on the journey of building a country with human security and a government that protects. Without human safety, that country would not be a developed country. As the NPP, we plan to create a country that is food safe, education safe, and health secure. It is an emotionally secure, physically secure country. In such a country, people have deep human values. They engage in creative imagination, enjoy meaningful art and spend meaningful leisure. They constantly struggle to coexist with the animals and the environment. In such a country, not only men but also women are safe. In such a country, the child is safe. Minority groups are safe. All cultures are safe.

We are building the NPP as a place with a new breath. We sit around the table of brotherhood as equals and talk while eating. We are bound to each other by the warm hands of brotherhood above the abyss of ideological divisions. It is the time for such harmony. Only by the brotherhood of the country's people can a sick country be recovered. This is the time for it.

Not only that, we as a country is in a severe spiritual crisis. The tragic manifestation of this spiritual crisis is the selfish feeling that this country can prosper and succeed on its own, even when it is 'on the brink of a bottomless abyss. The NPP is a movement that appeals to the good nerves in the good hearts of all human beings in this country with such individualistic attitudes.

Corruption exists in every country. Also, there is a public outcry against corruption in every country. Such people who demand justice in their own countries are our companions. So we call the world to help us. Come and help to transform this land with us. We need a political movement that can tell the world that the price paid for our little peppercorns will go to the poor shanties in our villages, and the children in those houses could go to school. We need a political movement that can tell the world that their price for our tea would go to our villages and protect the children in the huts from disease. We are confident that the NPP will become that movement.

The NPP has emerged to address the soul of the brotherhood, honesty and justice that is still in your heart. We in the NPP hear the voice of the new world when we see you have come here to listen to us even in this time of epidemics. Let us come in droves to make this dream come true as we have assembled here today.



Chile: A young man on the left elected to the presidency

The people of Chile, the country with the largest income gap in the world, have elected left-wing candidate Gabriel Boric as their country's president in the December 19 presidential election. Gabriel Boric received 56% of the vote, while his rival and far-right candidate, Antonio Castro, received only 44% of the vote.

Chile has had a neo-liberal right-wing government since the overthrow of the elected Socialist government of Salvador Allende in a 1973 military coup. That is why this victory is of historical significance. Boric, a 35-year-old student activist, is also the youngest ever president of Chile.

Turkey: Workers struggle to raise the minimum wage

Thousands of Turkish workers staged a massive protest in Istanbul, Turkey, demanding that the government raise its minimum wage to 5,200 Turkish lira (US \$ 358.80). The Turkish Revolutionary Trade Unions Federation organized the protest march and rally on December 12. However, after talks, President Erdogan's government agreed to raise the minimum wage to 4,250 Turkish lira from next year.

UK: University professors on strike

Academic staff members at universities across the UK went on a three-day strike from December 1st to 3rd. Their demands were for a fair wage, the elimination of wage inequality, the reduction of work pressure and the immediate removal of harmful proposals brought into the pension system. The strike was called by the University and Colleges Union (UCU). It was attended by academic staff from 58 universities across the country and was supported by progressive political parties and student organizations.



Thailand: The government on its knees in the face of protests from Chana villagers

Villagers in the Chana district staged a protest on December 6 against a Thai government-sponsored Chana industrial park project, which ended in victory 10 days later, on December 15.

About 300 villagers protested in front of the government headquarters in Bangkok and the UN office. They demanded that the project be stopped immediately. They ended their protest with the government agreeing to halt the project immediately and reconsider.

Progressive movements are awakening around the world

A wave of protests and demonstrations seems to be spreading around the world. It is growing and expanding proportionately faster and more extensive than hitherto held protests.

According to 'Aljazeera' there have been nearly 7,000 protests and demonstrations in 153 countries (excluding the United States) over the past ten years. Between 2010 and 2020, there have been at least 900 protests worldwide, with more than 10,000 participants in each demonstration. 1. The Yellow Jackets' Movement in France 2. The United States' Black Lives Matter 3. The Rise of Protests in Lebanon in October 2019 4. The Movement Against Bolsonaro, the President of Brazil 5. The Peasant Struggle in India is the most prominent of these. Citing a research report by the German intelligence agency ^Think Tank& Friedrich - Ebert - Stiftung Washinton Post newspaper on November 24 reported during the period 2006-2020, the number of protests in the world tripled over the previous 15 years. According to the report, more than 900 protests were reported in 101 countries during this period. Considering the growth of protest movements around the world today, they refer to the present era as similar to trends in 1848, 1917 and 1968. Many of these campaigns were to win the just demands that the rulers have agreed but not granted yet. During those protests, protesters



protested the way things were going and said they hoped for a change. According to the report, the most significant increase in protest and protest movements has taken place in Europe and the Central Asian region. Also, the number of demonstrations in high-income countries has increased compared to other countries.

According to a report by Chaucer, a multinational insurance company, published in July 2021, the number of protests participated by 100 or more people has increased by more than 36% after the 2008/09 economic crisis compared with the earlier decade. That is, it has risen from an average of 355 protests a year in the decade before 2009 to an average of 482 protests a year

in the decade since the global economic crisis. According to them, agitations and protests in Europe grew by 71%, in the Middle East and North Africa by 229% and in sub-Saharan Africa by 48% during these two decades. The recent 'Black Lives Matter' protests in the United States have led to an increase in the number of protests in the United States and internationally. In the United States alone, it is an increase of 156%.

The austerity measures introduced by the European Union: cuts in public spending, cuts in subsidies, and tax increases led to the growth of agitations and protests in Europe during the two decades mentioned above. Most of this growth took place in Germany. Protests and agitations in Germany

have increased by 247% in those two decades. The second-largest increase was in France. It is 108%.

The above research was primarily done before the covid 19 world epidemic. The world economy continued to collapse as a result of the covid epidemic. Only a handful of countries have survived that economic collapse. Despite the fact that the covid epidemic is still raging, protests and demonstrations are growing in almost every country in the world.

In addition, a change in the nature of the growing protests and demonstrations can be observed. This change seems to be growing significantly, especially with the covid world epidemic. Slogans such as anti-immigration,

Progressive movements... From Page 06

nationalism, environmental issues, gay marriage, and the legalization of abortion gained significant traction in the world before the covid epidemic. However, since the covid epidemic, the slogans such as wage increases, labour rights, and income inequality have been at the forefront of the growing protests and demonstrations. At the same time, there has been a significant increase in the activities of trade unions, workers and progressive movements in the recent past.

Also, in the early days after the 2008/09 global economic crisis, racist and nationalist parties and movements won electoral victories in many parts of the world. But in the years since the outbreak of the covid epidemic, that situation has changed. There seem to be a growing tendency for progressive, anti-imperialist and left-wing parties and movements to win elections, pushing back racist and nationalist movements.

New Year message of the JVP

Our country is entering the New Year 2022, carrying with it the burden of the crises of the past year. Therefore, in the current situation, the New Year cannot be expected to be auspicious in any way. However, there is another kind of tidings of great joy at the same time! The people are beginning to embark on a new political journey!

The country and the people are now in a state of catastrophe due to the failure of the President and the government and the failure of the socio-economic and political system they have been pursuing. It is not necessary to describe the length, breadth and depth of this calamity as the whole Nation is experiencing the disaster through their daily lives.

The crisis of the long-growing capitalist social system has now reached its climax. The economic system maintained under the neo-liberal strategy has completely collapsed. The stench of Sri Lankan capitalism, a decomposed corpse, is now beginning to be felt by the people through various problems they face in their lives. This stench cannot be stopped by applying perfume.

The prices of essential consumer goods are rising rapidly. Prices of food items such as rice, coconuts, vegetables, onions, chillies, bakery products, milk powder, daily necessities such as soap, toothpaste, gas, firewood, fuel and all building materials have gone up beyond the reach of the people. Bus fares and taxi fares are on the rise as a result of rising fuel prices. Due to the shortage of goods, people have been forced to join queues though they have to pay higher prices. Even after buying the gas cylinder paying a high price, and standing in long lines, they have to spend time at home wondering if the hard-earned and expensive gas cylinder will explode. Although no one seems to think that there is a ruler or an administration responsible for any of this, they still feel that they exist only through stupid decisions, gossip and bragging.

2021 is coming to an end, and the New Year 2022 has arrived when such an environment exists in the country. It is a unique state because the people have had the opportunity to learn in the last two years the political lessons that they have not been able to learn for 72 years. The experience of this widespread disaster that is being experienced has brought new hope to the people. Many are abandoning their old political ideologies and volunteering with determination to move along a new journey. They are beginning to choose the political movement that has the potential to save the country from this crisis. This is the 'good news' of the New Year that has emerged after a very disastrous year.

So, this New Year begins with new hope for the country. That is, the people of this country are preparing to abandon the wrong bankrupt political path they have chosen so far and embark on a new political journey. The real mass movement that is building the country is now growing rapidly. People who were betrayed, persecuted and frustrated have now found their rightful place. It is a matter of joy to all those who want to liberate the country and the people from persecution.

This year can be transformed into the year of the greatest achievements of the new political journey that will truly bring good fortune to the country and the people.

Now, the new year greeting expressed traditionally could be transformed to a genuine wish for a Happy New Year, which will be auspicious for the people and the country as it would be the year the people and the country achieve real victories going along the new political path they embark on. The collection of honest, unblemished, selfless people that has ever been formed in Sri Lanka – the real people's movement – will be widened and strengthened this year, and it will lead the country and the people to victory. It will permanently liberate the country and the people from this humiliation and persecution. We wish all those who come forward with courage and confidence for that new political journey a Happy New Year.

Anura Dissanayake

Leader - Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna

We are ready...

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“We are ready to accept the challenge of rescuing the Motherland from the catastrophe that has struck which is a result of the failure of the President, the government and the socio-economic, political system followed by the rulers for 73 years. We would transform our Motherland into a developed country,” states Comrade Anura Dissanayake, Leader of the JVP and National People's Power.

He said so while addressing the delegates' convention of the National People's Power held at the Monarch Imperial Conference Hall on the 20th.

Comrade Anura Dissanayake pointed out that the actions taken for decades have ended up causing all the devastation that could be inflicted on a country and its people. He said the people's lives were in crisis due to vast shortages of essential commodities, skyrocketing prices and uncertainty over the repayment of the country's loan instalments. Stating that the traditional political parties that have existed have not been able to resolve the deep crises facing the country or move the country forward, he assured that the National People's

Power would be strongly built as a people's movement that can rally the people in the country around it.

Comrade Anura Dissanayake stated that the National People's Power has a vision and a programme to rebuild the country and guide all those involved in the economic process, including farmers, workers, entrepreneurs and public servants, with a vision set by the government. He expressed confidence that Sri Lanka would become a developed country within five to six years.

Let us join the path...

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corruption is enormous. The former Auditor General had once stated that the country's debt was eleven trillion and its assets were 1.8 trillion. This is why our country is stuck in a huge mountain of debt. The share of debt which was one billion rupees in 1955, has increased to 16 billion rupees as of 30th April. Can any ruler say what was done with the loans taken? As such, firstly, incorrupt politics is needed to build this country. It can only be done by the most incorrupt national force in this country. Many people expect the corrupt to be punished. It is also expected that the property earned from corruption should be taken back. Surely it can only be done under the control of the National People's Power. We shall do it.

Secondly, a collective effort is needed to build this country. Man is not naturally a thief, a corrupt person, an oppressor. The man is inherently optimistic. Who dragged that man into this disaster? A society has been created where the individual tries to achieve independently. In that society, man becomes a fraudster and a corrupt person. If so, he can be saved collectively. For that, the politician must step down from the top floor, which is extremely privileged and above the law. Then we have to work shoulder to shoulder with the public and become activists who build society as equal partners. The country can be built by combining my role as a politician, your role as a professional, his role as an entrepreneur, and the role of the farmer and the fisherman collectively.

Incorrupt politics and the collective intervention of society are the two essential elements needed to build the country. The economic programme built on that should be implemented. We have a vision and a plan. But it needs to be completed with new ideas and suggestions. The transformation we are making, especially with regard to the economic structure, must be done on three basic foundations.

We must increase national production, acquire a fair share of goods and services in the world market, involve the people in this economy and distribute the benefits fairly among them. Today a large section of the people has been evicted from this economy. They have turned human life into human dust. People should be made active participants in the economy. As the country achieves economic expansion, the benefits must be distributed fairly. We shape our country's economic strategy based on several key factors. Of those, location is first. This position should be utilized very well in the development of our country. It is also important to have an accurate assessment of our country's natural resources. We do not have valuable resources like gold, copper and gas.

But, our ocean which is almost eight times as much as the country, is a rich resource. Our lucky resources are beautiful beaches, mineral resources, two monsoon rains, location near the equator, and fertile land. Utilizing these resources is the core of our development plan.

Thirdly, human resources are the most crucial resource in our country. Our country is ranked 24th in the world in terms of population density. Approximately three hundred and forty people live on nearly one square kilometre. Developing these human resources is an integral part of our economic strategy. It requires the use of education, health and sports. The primary purpose of our education is to produce an intelligent man. Just as health produces a healthy man, sport also produces courage. We utilize education, health, and sports sectors to build Sri Lankan citizens into intelligent, healthy, and efficient citizens. Our aim is to build the most advanced human resources in the world from Sri Lanka. We are confident that it can be done.

The world today is intertwined in many ways. Communication, transportation, the world market, and transportation are all intertwined. There are various strongholds in world politics, and the economy and conflicts and competition exist. Where is Sri Lanka located in it? As a result of decades of misguided foreign policy, we are trapped in the agendas of various countries. Therefore, we must implement a new, non-aligned foreign policy that can come out of the cave with a comprehensive vision and programme. Our irrigation industry, the tank system, is built with the development of our civilization. We must move towards a new economic programme based on our country's civilization, human resources, world politics, and resources.

We have a vision and a plan in that regard. We guide farmers, workers, entrepreneurs and public servants with a vision. In five or six years, our country can be transformed into a developed country. Citizens always had good hopes. Every citizen cast their vote with good intentions. We are building the people's aspirations to move the country forward through an administration that creates the unity of all in this country. The Executive Committee of the National People's Power has an elected body representing all sectors. Let us go to the village and launch the politics of turning this country towards a new path. Let us choose the path of solution instead of the path of destruction that has been going on for seventy-three years. This is the road to the solution. We invite everyone to join us on that path with courage.

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New hope for the New Year

It is a well-known fact that the coming New Year 2022 will not be auspicious for the entire country and the people except for the ruling clique, including the Rajapaksa family and a few racketeers around them. There is no need for superfluous commentaries, annotations or interpretations to describe it. People are realizing this in their daily lives.

The crisis of the long-growing capitalist social system has now reached its peak. The economic system maintained under the neo-liberal strategy has completely collapsed. Now Sri Lankan capitalism is a decaying corpse. Its stench is felt through various issues these days. It cannot be revived no matter how much it is kept in the intensive care unit. The stench of this corpse cannot be blocked by smearing perfume or powder. The stench of this carcass is more pervasive than the stench of so-called organic fertilizers. How is that?

There is a gas shortage. The price is too high. Hard-taken gas cylinders explode in the house. People are scared. Nevertheless, no one is responsible for it, or there is no solution! There is no milk powder in the country. No cement. There are shortages of certain goods. Long queues are formed to get the minimum available. However, there is no ruler to take responsibility. Prices of essential goods are high. Rice and coconut prices have risen. The prices of onions and chillies are skyrocketing. So milk rice for the new year is becoming an expensive dream. Vegetable prices have risen to the sky. They are close to the price of gold. The wrong, foolish decisions of the rulers have paved the way for a food shortage in the country.

Nevertheless, the president and ministers have no shortage of bragging and boasting. The government is increasing the oil price while the people have been affected by the price of goods. The man who has fallen from the tree of prosperity is being fiercely poked by the government bull.

People have been learning political lessons for the past two years that they have not been able to learn for 72 years. So, people are suffering in this situation; They are also angry. All beliefs about the ruling class are now shattered. People are realizing that 'if we earn, we will eat' is no longer valid.

As it is said that every black cloud has a silver lining, this great catastrophe has raised new hopes in us oppressed people. The people voluntarily and determinedly leave their old leaders and old parties and embark on a new journey. Finally, the people see the JVP as a political movement capable of rescuing the country from this crisis. Isn't that the 'good news of the inauspicious New Year'? Its impact is so great that even some ruling elites who see 'where the wind is blowing' have started saying good about the JVP. It shows that the situation is changing.

Therefore, this New Year begins with new hope for the country. The people of this country have abandoned the wrong bankrupt political path and have shown responses that suggest they have chosen the JVP and the NPP to embark on a new political journey.

The recently concluded Representative Conference of the National People's Power (NPP) was a marvellous and powerful milestone in this new political journey. It proved to be the comely home of the people who were ready to go along a new path, rejecting the old system, the old politics, the parties that had destroyed the past and the present. The real mass movement that is building the country is now growing rapidly. People who were betrayed, persecuted and frustrated have now found their rightful place. It is the spectacle that fills our minds with joy at the moment.

The traditional New Year greetings we uttered every year as a tradition should now be changed. It can be changed. This year can be hailed as the year of the most outstanding achievements of the new political journey in which the country and the people will genuinely prosper and win back the country for the people.

With the accumulation of honest, uncorrupted and selfless people who have emerged in Sri Lanka so far, the real people's movement is building extensively this year. It will lead the country and the people to victory. It will permanently liberate the country and the people from this humiliation and persecution.

We wish all those who come forward with courage and confidence to move along that new political journey a Happy New Year.



Taking to the streets against fuel price hike



Opposing selling national resources



Joining 10th Congress of the Communist Party of Nepal



For a beautiful country with contented lives



Looking into issues of farmer community in Nuwaraeliya



Demanding solutions for gas issue