

Manifesto

Compassionate
Government

Maithri

A Stable Country



New Democratic Front

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*Venerable Maha Sangha,
Hindu, Islam and Christian religious dignitaries,
Dear Friends,*



First I wish for all of you the dawn of a society where compassion reigns. I am contesting this Presidential election after giving up the important ministerial portfolios I held as the General Secretary of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, rejecting the premiership that was dangled before me, and ignoring the threat to my life and the lives of my family members. I did this to free my cherished motherland and all its people from the tragic fate that has overtaken them.

I would like to pay homage to all members of the Buddhist Sangha who aspire to create a patriotic and moral society, as also to all religious dignitaries of the Hindu, Islamic and Christian faiths who are committed to a civilized society, for their support for my candidature. I salute leaders and members of all political parties, including

the Leader of the Opposition, who have united to achieve one national objective, forgetting party differences, symbols, colours etc. I also salute my colleagues who joined me to liberate the Sri Lanka Freedom Party from the clutches of a single family.

I reciprocate in friendship the fraternal support I receive from all social activists and volunteer organizations who have dedicated their lives to the wellbeing of oppressed people, the peasants, workers and fisher-folk, to the interests of professionals including those in medicine, engineering and accountancy, to the cause of women and children and those with special needs, to benefit future generations and to protect our environment.





MY VISION



It is true that there was always corruption and fraud. But the extent of corruption in Sri Lanka in the last few years is utterly unprecedented. The time has come now for all the main political parties to unite for a joint programme to build the country.



From 1994 to now, our country was ruled by alliance governments in which the SLFP was the main component. We were able to solve many burning problems of the country during this period. I am happy that I too was able to contribute to these achievements as the General Secretary of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party. The whole country is aware that these achievements include the elimination of terrorism which was the most serious socio-political challenge that Sri Lanka faced over three decades in its recent history.

Though five years have elapsed since that military victory, Sri Lanka has failed to enter successfully a path leading to overcoming the other major social, political and economic crises that it faces. What has happened instead is the unanticipated further aggravation of these crises. Our country cannot march forward without solving these new and more critical crises.

A large number of deviations, such as the total breakdown of the rule of law, fraud, corruption, wastage, incapacity to identify national priorities, environmental degradation, and moral and spiritual decline have emerged as obstacles to our country's march forward. It is true that there was always corruption and fraud always. But the extent of corruption in Sri Lanka in the last few years is unprecedented and has not been known before. The time has come now for all the main political parties to unite for a joint programme to build the country.

This problem is experienced at every stage, from the construction of culverts in villages to the construction of highways, power stations, airports etc. Earlier people spoke about ten percent commissions. Now the talk is about ninety percent ransoms. Now, if Rs 100,000 is spent on the construction of a culvert the amount pilfered is Rs 900, 000. If a total of Rs. 7.3 billion is spent per kilo metre on the construction of the Kadawata – Kerawalapitiya highway, the amount pilfered is Rs. 5.2 billion.

This money is received on credit from abroad. The mega ransom goes to a few individuals. Generations of our children and grandchildren will not be able to completely finish paying off this debt. As a consequence the country and its properties would be forfeited as mortgages. So our land and property would fall into the hands of foreigners. The land that the imperialists took over by means of military strength is now obtained by foreigners by paying ransom to a handful of persons. This robbery takes place before everybody in broad daylight. Yet the people are forced to be silent observers in the face of brute power. By now all the hopes that were kindled in 2009 of making our country attractive have withered away. If this trend continues for another six years, our country would again become a colony and we would be slaves.

Today when the law of the country is manipulated by a few people, Sri Lanka's image has been destroyed due to its incompetent and

naïve foreign policy and strategies. Sri Lanka is rapidly getting isolated from the international community. Instead of becoming the Miracle of Asia, Sri Lanka has become the battle field of world powers.

Our country is now entering a decisive juncture in its history. Whether the country would turn towards becoming a haven for peace, prosperity and reconciliation, or whether it would fall into an abyss of degeneration, instability and anarchy, depends on the way you, my fellow citizens that love our Motherland, will act today.

As the General Secretary of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party I decided to come forward as the People's Common Candidate at this Presidential election so as to build a stable prosperous Sri Lanka, after solving over the next few years the great problems the country faces today. I dedicate myself to building unity amongst political parties, which is essential for the country today. Now the historic moment has come when the main political parties can unite for a programme to build the country. I would like to salute and express my appreciation to the brave leaders and members of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, the leaders and

members of the United National Party, the Jatika Hela Urumaya and the Democratic Party who have joined me in carrying out this serious task.

Along with the political leaders and people who are with me I will implement in two stages a programme to stabilise the country. The first stage is the Hundred Day Programme to solve urgent issues. For that purpose a National Unity Alliance Government will be established for a hundred day interim period. This programme will be implemented through a National Government comprising the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, the United National Party, the Jatika Hela Urumaya and representatives of all other political parties in the present Parliament who are willing to join this programme. The leader of the Opposition Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe will be appointed as the Prime Minister of this National Government.

Second, I will implement a six-year programme to build an ideal country through the government that will be established after the General Election to be held after hundred days. I have no greed for power. I am only fulfilling the historic task entrusted to me to build and stabilise the country.





THE WAY FORWARD





01. A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT GUARANTEEING DEMOCRACY



It is the President who should provide leadership to get the Constitutional Amendment approved by Parliament. I decided to contest the Presidential election as the common candidate of the people to complete that task.

We were unable to constitutionally change the Executive Presidential system that has been in force since 1978 though we promised the people and the country to do so from 1994 up to date. Our inability to achieve that objective was a great failure on our part. It cannot be delayed any longer.

- **Abolishing the Executive Presidential System with Unlimited Powers**

The President needs the assistance of Parliament to change the post of Executive President. That is because it is Parliament which has the power to amend the Constitution. Yet the Parliament was unable to effect this change for the last twenty years. It is the President as leader

of the main party who should provide the leadership to pass the required Constitutional Amendment with a two-thirds majority. For that the President should take the initiative to reach an accord among the main political parties. It is to fulfil this task that I decided to come forward as the common candidate of all the people at this Presidential election.

I can obtain the support of the Members of Parliament of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party that has the majority in Parliament. The United National Party has signed an agreement with me to effect this amendment.

Instead of the present autocratic Executive Presidential System I will introduce a Constitutional structure with an Executive that is allied to the Parliament through the Cabinet.

The Janatha Vimukti Peramuna has since 1994 agreed with our Party to do this. The Jatika Hela Urumaya has signed an agreement with me to support this measure. Therefore I will have discussions with other parties and pass this amendment without fail within a hundred days.

In order to change the Executive Presidential System I am taking as background material agreements for abolishing the

Executive Presidential system reached by the Movement for a Just Society headed by Venerable Maduluwawe Sobhitha Thera as well as the proposals contained in the Draft 19th Amendment compiled by the Pivituru Hetak Jatika Sabhava headed by Ven Atureliye Ratana Thera, which proposed a Constitutional alliance of the President and the Prime Minister. I will also consider the changes proposed to these proposals by the United National Party.

The new Constitutional structure would be essentially an Executive allied with the Parliament through the Cabinet instead of the present autocratic Executive Presidential System. Under it the President would be equal with all other citizen before the law. I guarantee that in the proposed Constitutional Amendment I will not touch any Constitutional Article that could be changed only with the approval at a Referendum. I also confirm that I will not undertake any amendment that is detrimental to the stability, security and sovereignty of the country. My amendments will be only those that facilitate the stability, security and sovereignty of the country.

Also

- The number, composition and nature of the Cabinet of Ministers would be determined on a scientific basis.

- The Parliamentary Committee System for Ministries will be reinforced.
- An independent assessment of the merits of each Ministry would be undertaken and this will be subjected to the supervision of the Members of Parliament.
- A Code of ethics binding on all People's Representatives will be legally enacted to prevent provincial politicians and their henchmen engaging in fraud, bribery, corruption, rape, murder etc. on orders and political patronage they receive from higher ups. Stringent measures will be taken to prevent unjust influences, irregular actions and conduct, oppression of the people, threats and intimidation, unjust use of force and neglect of public services on the part of the people's representatives.

Amending the Electoral System

Another serious problem that our Sri Lanka Freedom Party led government failed to address during the last twenty years is the change of the electoral system. The existing electoral system is a mainspring of corruption and violence. Candidates have to spend a colossal sum of money due to the preferential system. I will change this completely. I guarantee the abolition of the preferential system and will ensure that every electorate will have a Member of Parliament

of its own. The new electoral system will be a combination of the first-past-the post system and the proportional representation of defeated candidates. Since the total composition of Parliament would not change by this proposal, I would be able to get the agreement of all political parties represented in Parliament for the change. Further, wastage and clashes could be minimised since electoral campaigns would be limited to single electorates.

Preferential system at elections will be abolished. The existence of at least one MP in each electorate would be ensured.

A mechanism to supervise good governance

During the period following the Year 2010 a major complaint against our Sri Lanka Freedom Party Government was with regard to Bribery and Corruption. The main reason for the deterioration of the customs of good governance in the country is the 18th Amendment to the Constitution. One principal feature of the Constitutional reform that I would make within the first hundred days is the abolition of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution.

In its place

- I will establish Independent Commissions to secure the impartiality of judicial, police, elections, auditing institutions and the office of the Attorney-General.
- I will further strengthen and activate the Commission on Bribery and Corruption by making it an independent Commission recognised by the Constitution. Action will be taken to reinforce corruption prevention structures in accordance with the Anti-Corruption Charter of the United Nations to which Sri Lanka is a signatory.
- I will introduce an apolitical merit system to secure the impartial functioning of the Public Service in accordance with government policies.
- I will establish a Judicial Services Commission that will ensure the independence of the judiciary. It will appoint and promote judges according to seniority and merit.
- I will take steps to introduce procedural amendments and duly provide the necessary human and material resources to prevent long delays in litigation.
- Maximum action will be taken to prevent the abuse of women and children that has grown to unbelievable proportions in the country

I will abolish the 18th Amendment to the Constitution and replace it with the establishment of independent Commissions in order to secure the impartiality of institutions such as the judiciary, police, elections, auditing and the office of the Attorney-General.

due to the wrong actions of people of all walks of life. I will provide facilities to speed up and end in a short span of time the trials related to these offences. Thereby I will act to completely stop the abuse of Women and children.

- I will establish the Elections Commission to completely control the unjust use of state power, power of money and media power by election candidates.
- I will make Constitutional provisions for the establishment of a powerful Ant-Corruption Commission which is capable of finding out technical, managerial and financial corruption without any political interference in its activities. Thereby I will ensure a clean administration by eradicating corruption which has spread like a cancer throughout the country.

- I will also introduce a Right of Information Act so that people can access all information relating to development activities.
- I will remove obstacles to the activities of citizens' organizations by encouraging citizen participation in economic, social and human rights activities. While securing the human rights already enshrined in the Constitution, steps will be taken to further reinforce the rights of citizens.



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02. A DEVELOPMENT ECONOMY



The economic crisis which began in the developed countries and which has now spread through the world is only one aspect of the social, economic, environmental and cultural crises that is facing the world. It is not a short-term but a long-term crisis. These crises are a result of wrong policies which have preferred hatred to compassion, extreme indulgence in pleasure to the middle path, the pursuit of infinite development in a finite world and the domination of nature to co-existence with it. Unfortunately the few that manipulate the country's economy also try to rush along this evil path.

As a consequence small, medium and large scale projects launched recently in our country with the aim of achieving miracles have brought the country to a serious economic catastrophe. What the people see as dividends of development are the fruits of just one tenth of the money obtained as loans which enmesh the country in a debt trap. That means development in the country should have been ten times what has actually happened. Even the meagre development that

I would achieve for the country ten times the development that actually occurred during the past six years only by preventing mega corruption that existed in the country.

resulted has not been in projects which can contribute to repaying the debts. That was because development priorities have been formulated not on the requirements of the country but on the needs of a few persons.

Therefore

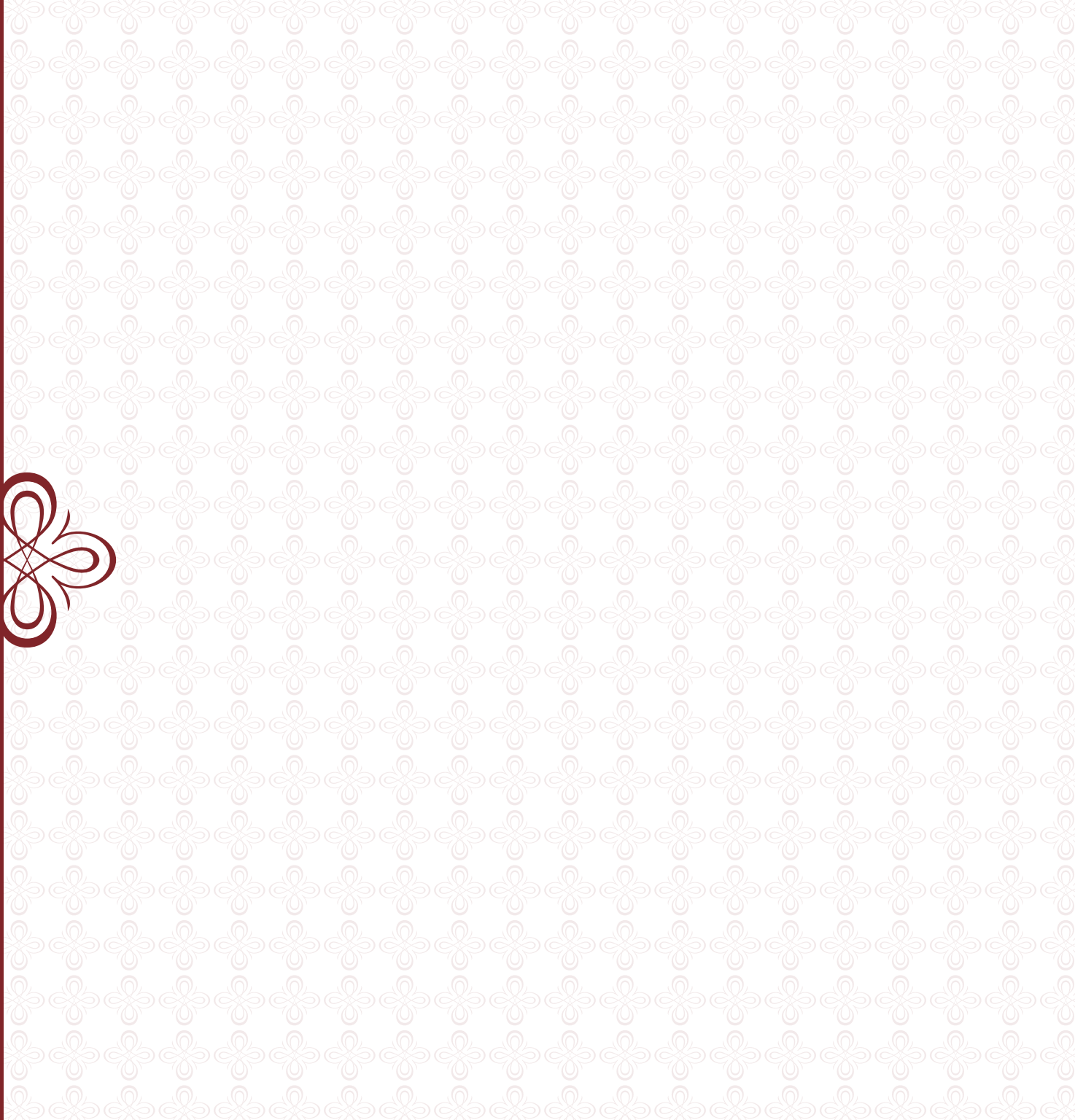
- Just by stopping mega corruption and wastage I will provide the country with development which is ten times that of the last six years, and provide relief to the people.
- I will put right development priorities that are now upside down. I will suspend all wasteful expenses and establish a National Economic Planning Council comprising learned personnel, who would act not on pecuniary considerations but out of love for the country. They will prepare a programme aimed at real sustainable economic development based on the natural and human resources of the country. On the recommendations of that Council I will implement a programme to uplift the living

conditions not of the magnates of capital but of toiling poor people.

- I will expose to the country the true state of state loans. Irregularities in obtaining and managing loans will be rectified. Also urgent steps will be taken to lighten the state debt burden.
- Sri Lanka is a country with excessive state debt and a dangerous ratio with regard to loan repayment and state revenue. While appreciating the policy of not selling state property I will prevent the appropriation by foreign states or companies of strategic locations that endanger the economic security of Sri Lanka. I will prepare the Sri Lankan economy to prevent international assaults by diversification of investment, non-reliance on investments from a single country and re-investment.
- I will re-assess all mega projects undertaken recently. I will punish those responsible for technical offences in such projects irrespective of the status of the offenders. A special programme will be formulated to investigate big and small development activities that are undertaken throughout the country, procurements and transactions of institutions and fraudulent investment of Employees Provident Fund funds.

- Custom duties will be relaxed on 10 essential food items to give relief to the people burdened with the high cost of living. The prices of essential food items will come down instantly as a result.
- The monthly Samurdhi allowance given to persons with the greatest difficulty in making ends meet will be increased to a maximum equal to twice the present allowance. A systematic and comprehensive programme will be developed in conformity with the Jana Saviya Programme for their economic development.
- In order to provide urgent relief to the debt-stricken the salary of public servants will be increased by Rs, 10,000/-. I will take measures to provide the first instalment of this increase amounting to Rs. 5,000/- from February 2015.
- Due recognition would be accorded to senior citizens. A monthly interim allowance of Rs 3,500/- will be paid to pensioners till their salary anomalies are settled. Action will be taken to provide an acceptable pension to employees in the Banking and Financial sector. Interest on the first 1 million rupees in fixed deposits of senior citizens will be raised to 15%. The monthly allowance paid by the government to poor senior citizens suffering from economic deprivation will be increased by Rs 1,500/-.
- An urgent programme will be immediately started to provide houses to people without a shelter.
- A special protection scheme will be introduced for war widows of all communities and their dependents.





03. A MORAL SOCIETY



■ **Freeing the country from the menace of drugs, liquor and cigarettes**

Our people, especially males, have become dangerous victims of drugs, liquor and cigarettes. Our people spend on drugs, liquor and cigarettes about ten times the money the government spends on social subsidy projects such as the Samurdhi and Divi Neguma to eradicate poverty. While the drug menace proliferated extensively in the country, a programme was activated to defend politicians who were accused of having connections with drug deals. In order to facilitate their bosom pals in the distribution of heroin, only the latter's rivals were suppressed. Casting aside the "Matata tita" (End to drugs) policy of the Mahinda Chintana, Ethanol and Methanol businesses flourished. Cliques connected with drugs and liquor were invited and accommodated in politics while our people who were victims of those substances suffered heavily. These drug and liquor businessmen were given Cabinet and other ministerial portfolios in the Alliance Government. It is by spending a minute fraction of the billion-fold income earned from drugs and liquor that useless political propaganda is being conducted throughout the country today.

Annually 15,000 of our people die of cancer. Amongst these, cancers of the mouth and lungs are predominant. One reason for this is excessive smoking, which also contributes to poverty. Their families disintegrate. Their children become illiterate. What is being created here is an insane vicious circle of poverty, destitution and sickness. It was in 2010 after the military victory that a historic occasion dawned to liberate the country from this menace. Yet unfortunately we could not accomplish that invaluable task. The entire

Special rehabilitation centres for the drug addicts. Illustrated warnings on Cigarette packets to reach 80%.

Cabinet and the membership of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party became helpless due to the autocratic policies of President Mahinda Rajapaksa which lacked foresight.

Though an Act was presented on the initiative of the Maha Sangha to control drugs and liquor and a Drug Regulatory Authority was established, the dictatorship prevailing in the country prevented it functioning. Regulations to include an 80 percent illustrated warning on cigarette packets brought through my intervention were delayed for two years. I had to waste time seated on benches in Courts to witness how the nation is being betrayed according to the dictates of Western

cigarette companies. Since then the Finance Ministry and the Treasury jointly curtailed annual monetary allocations to the Health Ministry. The age in which these anti-social business concerns received state patronage will completely end with my assumption of office as President.

Accordingly

- A Special Force will be established, combining the National Intelligence Service, the Special Task Force, Sri Lanka Customs and the Authority for the Control of Dangerous Drugs to suppress drug dealers.
- The names and addresses of all drug dealers will be publicized.
- The ethanol deals bypassing Customs duties will be suppressed and a programme will be implemented to punish those responsible irrespective of their status.
- Special rehabilitation centres will be established to rehabilitate drug addicts.
- Illustrated warnings on Cigarette packets will be increased to 80%.
- I will disallow the two Casino licences given to “Water Front” and “Lake Kere” under the Strategic Development Projects Act

contrary to certain decisions of Parliament and the Cabinet of Ministers, and despite the opposition of the Chief Prelates of all three Buddhist Sects.

- A study will be made of tax concessions given to projects under the Strategic Development Projects Act since its approval by Parliament, and irregular fraudulent projects would be delisted from strategic status.

■ Cultural and religious freedom and reconciliation

I will consolidate the right of all communities to develop and secure their culture, language and religion, while recognising the Sri Lankan identity. I will ensure that all communities will have due representation in government institutions.

Religious disturbances are developing in the country due to the activities of extremist religious sects. In this situation the extremist groups mutually nourish one another and are expanding their activities.

In order to control this situation

- I will establish regional and national councils comprising religious leaders who will boldly work for religious coexistence and against extremism, without giving room for extreme elements of all religions. These Councils will be empowered to investigate into all

problems associated with places of religious worship and arrive at final conclusions. Issues unresolved at regional level will be referred to the National Council.

- Relief will be provided to all citizens who were illegally evicted from their houses and land under various grounds. Property of citizens of Colombo who were deprived of their houses and land will be reassessed and their value will be deducted from their present housing loan. Estate population will be liberated from being residents of “line rooms” as at present and provided with the ownership of a real house with a piece of land.

Further, autocratic actions carried out recently under the directives of the family of the Head of State were a hindrance to religious freedom, which greatly disgraced the religion and the country. Urgent action will be taken to change this situation.

Accordingly

- Freedom of religious belief will be ensured for people belonging to all religions.
- Liquor sales outlets in close proximity to sacred places including the Sri Dalada Maligawa will be removed immediately and motor car racing in areas surrounding sacred places will be banned.

- Proposed amendments to the Buddhist Temporalities Act will be carried forward according to the advice, guidance and approval of the Maha Nayake Theras.
- A programme will be started to develop traditional Pirivena education and train teachers for religious instruction schools (Daham Pasel). Requisite background will be provided to organise an International Buddhist University to improve Pirivena education to international level.
- Legislation will be soon introduced to prevent violence to animals.

■ **Promotion of Arts and Culture**

When a country develops physically and technologically, the development of Arts and Culture is also essential. Artists who should lead this development are today helpless. They were fulfilling the interests of medallist and large business concerns, and have become servants of various advertising publicity agencies which fool the people. Thus they have used their creative talents to foster social evils. I will liberate the artists from this situation and build an environment in which they could be of real service to the people. Thereby I intend to obtain the

maximum contribution of artists to liberate society from the present confrontational atmosphere.

For that purpose

- I will establish a mechanism comprising independent academics and intellectuals to provide guidance to all state and non-state institutions with the objective of creating a value rich society in which the degeneration of national cultural values could be reversed and the enjoyment of art could be re-established.
- I will respect the independence of all artists and provide physical and financial resources for them to refine their creative abilities. Contribution of the state and private sectors for this endeavour will be ensured.
- I will take measures to consolidate the intellectual property rights of artists by ensuring state recognition and appreciation of all streams of art.
- A state policy for the field of Arts will be formulated and the necessary background will be built to improve and refine the abilities of enjoying art throughout the society with the help of various institutions.







04.

FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



■ Food and agriculture

Though the country is self-sufficient now in rice, our agriculture is totally dependent. A large amount of fuel and fertilizers has to be used and agriculture is almost totally dependent on foreign companies. This has created a number of serious problems. Not only does the country's money flow abroad, people are afflicted with serious illnesses due to the contamination of air, water and soil. Farmers, both men and women in Rajarata, the heartland of our rice economy, have been suffering from a fatal kidney disease for the last two decades. Both Sri Lankan experts and the World Health Organization (WHO) have found the cause of this illness to be the mixing of brackish waters with sub-standard fertilizers and agrochemicals.

While agro-chemical companies have expressed dissenting opinion using certain scientists who had been won over, the Cabinet Subcommittee, Officials Committee and WHO Consultants have recommended the control of poisonous agro-chemicals and

fertilizers. However a powerful invisible hand had stopped the implementation of the recommendations. Our conscience was shaken by the failure of the Government to prevent it when two hundred thousand peasants died because of the disease. I have never seen such a brutal fraud as promising money to kidney patients while allowing the distribution of pesticides and fertilizers that contain arsenic and cadmium which destroy people's kidneys. It has been revealed that

Agro-chemicals causing kidney disease will be banned. Farmer's Pension will be increased to correspond to the cost of living level. A guaranteed price for agro-products. Land and water to petty farmers for cultivation.

these poisonous substances are a cause of the spread of serious illnesses such as cancer and heart diseases throughout the country. That is why I was tempted to fight for the lives of the peasant children of Rajarata.

Therefore

- I will immediately prohibit the import and distribution of agro-chemicals that were identified as causing kidney diseases.

- Since Sri Lanka's bio-diversity is one of the richest in the world, I will increase state interventions and investments to expand the use of traditional seeds that favour cultivation suitable to our environment, to improve the knowledge and abilities of agro-technological institutions and to prevent the acquisition of a monopoly in seeds by corporations.
- A special subsidy scheme corresponding to the fertilizer subsidy will be implemented for organic fertilizer application and non-chemical agriculture. State patronage will be provided for the production of pest control liquids or powder utilising indigenous herbal extracts. I will also initiate measures to formulate a time frame for the gradual elimination of the use of chemical fertilizers and agro-chemicals.
- A National Land Commission will be established to suspend the autocratic transfer of land to foreign companies for development activities harmful to the environment and to provide opportunities for petty farmers to use land for cultivation purposes.
- I will take measures to repair clogged irrigation systems and remove silt from tank beds so as to preserve abundant rain water and thus face climatic changes.
- As an urgent national priority a basis will be laid for an agro-irrigation scheme for the

Northern Province, principally the Jaffna peninsula.

- The maintenance and management of small tanks will be the responsibility of the unit that administers that system while steps will be taken to provide the necessary facilities by the government.
- 50% of all farmer's' loans will be written off and a grace period will be given to freshly reassess and pay the balance money.
- Farmers' pension will be increased to correspond to the Cost of Living level.
- Crop damage insurance will be provided including a contribution by the government.
- The present guaranteed price of Rs. 60/- per litre of milk paid to milk farmers will be increased by Rs. 10/-.
- An appropriate methodology will be worked out to provide a guaranteed price for agro products. Correspondingly a guaranteed price of Rs. 50/- for a kilo of paddy and Rs. 80/- for a kilo of potatoes will be fixed.
- New methods will be introduced to strengthen the market mechanism since the removal of anomalies in the transport of the harvest from the farmer to the consumer is an essential factor in preserving farming.

- A programme will be initiated for the development and promotion of new methods suitable to the country and the farmer for processing of agro-harvests, value addition to agro-products, storage and transport.
- The background will be prepared for the formulation of a policy on sustainable agriculture based on indigenous resources and compatible with nature in order to liberate the country from dependent agriculture.
- Priority will be given to the preservation of water retaining areas in the central highlands in order to maintain underground water reserves.

■ Nature conservation

- I will prepare the background for preventing the destruction of forestation and conserving sensitive ecological systems in order to protect forests and forest animals. All environmental laws will be implemented without reservation and in doing so offenders will be punished irrespective of their standing in society. A clear policy on forest cultivation will be formulated and implemented without prejudice to the traditional livelihoods of the rural community.
- I will take responsible steps to conserve territories recognised by law as reserve zones and secure their boundaries.

- Zones that are environmentally sensitive and under threat of destruction at present will be identified and protected.
- Environmentally vital zones already destroyed or facing extinction will be restored using the latest scientific knowledge available in the world.
- Flora and Fauna Act will be strictly implemented without fear of favour.
- Environmental assessment will be made compulsory at the initial conceptual stage itself of development projects.
- Necessary steps will be taken to identify and protect environmental zones that are valuable and facing destruction at present.
- I will formulate and implement a national policy on the prevention of threats to rural people from wild animals. Included in it will be a special programme to manage the wild elephant threat that has become a burning issue.
- I will formulate a national policy that could face modern ecological challenges. Programmes will be activated to minimise various disasters and accidents caused by climatic changes such as drought, forest fires, floods, landslides, typhoons, tornados and sea erosion.
- In order to work out and implement methodologies to minimise accidents Disaster Management Centres will be systematically established at each Divisional Secretary Office so that a productive alliance could be maintained with relevant agencies.



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05. HEALTHCARE FOR ALL



A unified state service will coordinate Western, Eastern and indigenous systems of medicine and all medical drugs and tests will be provided from appropriate state institutions. All mothers will be given an allowance of Rs. 20, 000/- at the time of delivery of each child.

Due to the implementation of a health policy suitable to the country during the post-independence period Sri Lanka was in a relatively good position as regards healthcare in comparison with countries in a similar economic situation. However that status is deteriorating rapidly with worsening health amongst people and increasing problems in the system of care.

Therefore

- I will begin increasing the amount of money allocated for healthcare in the Budget up to 3% from the present 1.8%
- To establish conditions for healthy living for each citizen facilities will be provided for all to enjoy a full meal. In addition to ensuring the availability of food necessary to eliminate malnutrition and semi-malnutrition, attention will also be paid to ensuring maintenance of a sound life style, with proper physical exercise and good mental therapy etc.
- I consider disease prevention the priority in the field of health. Therefore an extensive and systematic programme will be prepared to minimise the incidence of disease.
- Since healthcare is an investment for the future patients visiting state institutions, from primary medical centres to the highest grade hospitals would be referred to appropriate facilities according to the seriousness of their illnesses and I guarantee that they will receive proper services. I will provide facilities for them to obtain necessary medicine and undergo necessary medical tests at appropriate state medical institutions without shortcomings. While a rapid programme will be implemented to expedite operations for patients on the waiting lists of state hospitals, the Out Patients' Departments of state hospitals will be kept open till 10 pm.
- All adverse stratagems of multi-national companies will be defeated and the state rational drug policy that was made to disappear will be approved soon.
- I will deploy the highest technical means available in the world to eliminate the Dengue menace.
- Every mother will be given an allowance of Rs. 20,000/- at each delivery to obtain nutritious meals.
- A single regulatory authority with adequate power will be instituted combining all product regulatory agencies such as the Consumer Affairs Authority, Food Advisory Committee, and Drug Regulatory Authority for the regulation of all consumer items such as food, beauty-care products and drugs.
- A special programme will be launched to utilise alternative systems of medicine such as Hereditary Indigenous Sinhala medicine, Ayurveda, Siddha, Homeopathy and Yunani. A new programme necessary for a revival of Ayurveda to face the challenges of the new world will be formulated with the assistance of veterans in this field.

- A Steering Committee responsible to the President will be appointed to implement the recommendations of the Presidential Task Force on the role of the Ayurvedic system of medicine within the national health policy.
- I will act to get approval for a new Ayurveda Act and an Act to regulate Ayurvedic drugs, cosmetics and equipment to suit contemporary requirements.
- Steps will be taken to legally strengthen the Ayurvedic Community Health Service in order to more practically institutionalize Ayurvedic and indigenous systems of medicine in society.
- Steps will be taken to provide a unified service to the people by proper coordination of Western, Eastern and Indigenous systems of medicine.
- A Post-Graduate Degree awarding institute will be established to produce experts on various indigenous methods of medicine hereditary to Sri Lanka.
- Since the prices of drugs have escalated to such an extent that patients are unable to afford them, an institution for purchasing and producing indigenous and western drugs at cheaper prices will be established, while taxes on such products would be relaxed.





06.

FREE EDUCATION OVERCOMING NEW CHALLENGES



Viewed relative to the speed of economic development and energy consumption Sri Lanka is on par with developed countries with respect to education. This is the result of our culture. Since free education was consolidated and expanded during the post-independence era people's interest in education is exemplary. All parents are committed to getting a sound education for their children. Unfortunately free education is being curtailed, causing the withering away of people's aspirations. Though a quantitative growth is witnessed in physical resources, a qualitative degeneration in education is visible. Rural schools are being closed due to lack of facilities. This is a serious situation. I propose to launch a systematic programme to change this situation.

Notions of justice and equality have disappeared from the education system due to the unpleasant competition engendered by the rapid intensification of educational anomalies. The education problem has worsened to the

level of a national issue. Hence I propose that a radical education reform suitable to the country should be implemented.

- I will increase total provision for education from the present 1.7 percent to 6 percent.
- A regulatory mechanism will be worked out for all segments of education from the pre-school onwards. Delays in admission of children to Grade One and to Grade Six

Total expenditure on education will be increased to 6% of the GDP. University Mahapola scholarship allowance will be increased to Rs. 5,000/-. Loan facilities will be provided to students of technical education colleges.

after the Year Five Scholarship Examination will be completely eliminated. I will ensure that all children have a school before the beginning of the First term.

- Since there is a great demand in the country for 55 principal schools while some rural schools are being closed down, a more extensive system of primary schools, another system of Junior Secondary schools feeding on the former and a system of main schools catering to Advanced Level students and

feeding upon the latter Junior Secondary system will be set up. After completely providing all primary and junior schools with necessary facilities, primary and junior sections will be gradually removed from main schools. Thereby the competition to admit children to schools with better facilities will end.

- Schools with facilities to study Advanced Level science subjects in the Tamil medium will be set up for children of the plantation community in the districts of Badulla, Nuwara Eliya, Kandy, Matale and Kegalle.
- International schools will come under full supervision of the government. International schools will be included in the national education policy. Their curricula will have to conform to the national educational policy. Aesthetic education, Laws of Nature, principles of duties and obligations, general personal ethics etc. should be included in all subject streams.
- A methodology will be worked out to direct students to tertiary education on the basis of results of GCE O/L and A/L qualifying examinations. Thereby technological and vocational education required for the country will be broadened and systematised. Youth who lack opportunities for academic education should be encouraged to pursue technical education pertaining to an

appropriate subject. Various loan facility methods will be introduced to enter technical education institutions that could produce youth with trained technical skills for the local and overseas job market.

- The higher education sphere will be completely restructured to develop human resources necessary for an innovative economy.
- While the Mahapola Scholarship grant will be increased to Rs. 5,000/- freedom will be given to University students to engage in part-time employment.
- National University system will be expanded and the number of admissions will be doubled. In doing so the next best student group who have failed to secure University admission will be admitted to the National Universities on a fee levying basis under a loan scheme. A small group will be targeted for studying in the Arts stream instead of the large numbers that do so at present and education in Arts and Humanities will be reorganised. Basic knowledge in the arts and aesthetics will be introduced to students of all streams science, commerce, technology etc.
- Autonomy will be granted to Universities and University Senates will be given the power to appoint and remove Vice Chancellors in accordance with their policies.
- All students who pass in three subjects at the Advanced Level will be given an education loan to study for a Higher Diploma or a Degree according to their choice under a long-term concessionary loan scheme.
- Institutions including the Youth Services Council, Youth Clubs and statutory federations will be freed from the grip of family nepotism and handed over to the youth. An institution will be established to teach vocal and instrumental music, dancing, and creative activities for talented youth. Also an institute will be established to train youth in sports capacities. A state reserve of such talented youth will be maintained.
- I will take steps to introduce to the fields of culture, technology and sport a more open and free structure of research and training institutions that could generate a renaissance in new creations and abilities.





07. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THAT DEFEND THE COUNTRY



All political appointments and appointment of relatives attached to the Foreign Service will be annulled and the entire Foreign Service will be reorganised using professional officials and personnel who have completed professional qualifications.

The whole world knows that our foreign policy is in disarray after the military victory of 2009. On the one hand we have no proper foreign policy while on the other hand cronies with no knowledge of diplomacy have been appointed to the Foreign Service. They try to maintain international relations in the same way as they attend to domestic work in their villages by resorting to bribery and thuggery. The net result of all these has been the lowering of the image of Sri Lanka in the world. It has become an urgent and imperative need to free the country from this situation.

For that purpose

- The country's foreign policy will be formulated to reflect the government's national perspectives.
- Within hundred days all political appointments and appointment of relatives attached to the Foreign Service will be annulled and the entire Foreign Service will be reorganised using professional officials and personnel who have obtained professional qualifications. Our foreign service will be transformed into one with the best learned, erudite, efficient personnel who are committed to the country and who hold patriotic views.
- Cordial relations will be strengthened with India, China, Pakistan and Japan, the principal countries of Asia, while improving friendly relations with emerging Asian nations such as Thailand, Indonesia, and Korea without differences.
- Our Indian policy will take into due consideration the diversity of India. I would act to have closer relations with an attitude that would be neither anti-Indian nor dependent.
- I will allow no international power to ill-treat or touch a single citizen of this country on account of the campaign to defeat terrorism.
- As a substantive response to allegations of human rights violations directed against Sri Lanka I will take action to promote humanitarian and environment-friendly attitudes both locally and internationally. On the advice of the Maha Sangha I will make Sri Lanka again the centre of distribution of the knowledge and discipline of Indian as well as Asian Buddhists. I will prepare the ground for disseminating in learned Western society Buddhism and its vision of impermanence and denial of soul that encompasses non-violence, equality and great compassion for all. Thereby it will be possible to build a new image for Sri Lanka in the world.
- I will take steps to investigate and take legal action over contracts, advisory services and other facilities given to various private institutions and persons by the Foreign Ministry and the Central Bank.







08. INDUSTRY AND SERVICES TO ERADICATE UNEMPLOYMENT



Special tax concessions and priority for local investors. Special plan to build small and medium scale local business concerns. Solutions to all problems of small fisher folk. One million local and foreign employment opportunities. Regular employment for graduates.

We cannot be satisfied at all with the progress of industries and services in Sri Lanka which has abundant natural and human resources. That is why the country has been unable to reach the benefits of free education and free health services. Those who display the highest merit leave the country and other youth tend to rise in rebellion as they are denied a job that is compatible with their learning. I will take measures to change this catastrophic situation through a national government.

Accordingly

- I will work out a strategic plan to obtain suitable local and foreign investment in order to reap maximum results from the country's natural, environmental, mineralogical and human resources. An efficient mechanism will be prepared for uninterruptedly activating investment with conditions of transparency and justice. A strategic programme will be worked out jointly by the State and private sectors to create a foreign market for high quality products based on the country's resources.
- Special tax concessions and priority will be given to industries with substantial contributions from local investors in the fields of technology exchange, local value addition and local end-product manufacturing.
- I will prepare a special plan to build small and medium scale local industries. For this purpose a technological policy and an institutional framework will be prepared to build the capacity for making modern, efficient and appropriate technology, high quality goods, access to markets, efficient financial and personnel management and skilled labour freely available. A joint initiative of State and private banks will be undertaken to provide financial facilities for this purpose.
- I will take steps to provide necessary financial and technological facilities under a regular scheme to every village in the country for the renewal of its hereditary and modern industries.
- Export manufacturers who wish to re-enter the international market will be provided with tax concessions and energy concessions. I will diversify our exports and improve new fields of export such as information and communication technology. 55% of our export market comprises Europe and North America. The prime attention of the country will be focussed on extending it to Asia, South America and Africa.
- I will maintain a floating price of Rs. 80 -90 for a kilogramme of green leaf tea and Rs. 350 for a kilogramme of rubber.
- In order to encourage entrepreneurs manufacturing import substitutes a joint banking system, a centralised marketing plan, a joint technological plan and a common enterprise upliftment plan will be worked out combining State and private sectors.
- The ban imposed on Sri Lankan fish exports entering the European market has thrown the entire fisheries industry into a crisis. Action will be taken to get this ban withdrawn. All outstanding problems of small fisher-folk will be solved by the new government as a priority task. Excessive taxes on fishing boats, nets, fishing implements and boat engines will be withdrawn. Foreign fishing

vessels will be prevented from infiltrating into the Sri Lankan maritime zone.

- An insurance cover of Rupees One million each will be provided to fishermen who lose their lives at sea. The government will also contribute to this scheme. A new pension scheme will be set up for fishermen.
- Import expenses that devalue the exchange value of the Rupee will be curtailed while steps will be taken to produce to the maximum what could be manufactured in the country. Security of supply will be afforded to drugs, flour, milk- powder and foodstuffs such as sugar. Nobody will be allowed to use these essential goods as a trade weapon.
- Instead of the economic strategy of expanding the service economy, securing cheap labour for foreign investment, relaxation of environmental laws introduced

in 1977 the country will be oriented toward a knowledge and innovation economy. High level technology as well as green technology suitable for small and medium scale industries will be effectively popularised in the country.

- I will implement a programme of providing one million jobs targeted under the above strategy in order to totally eradicate unemployment which is the prime factor leading to unrest among our youth.
- A pension scheme will be started for those who are employed overseas. Additional interest of 2.5% will be added to the current interest rate of their non-residential accounts. A special family protection programme will be started to look after the families of Sri Lankans labouring in foreign countries including those of the Middle East.





09.

AN ADVANCED AND RESPONSIBLE PUBLIC SECTOR



We cannot be satisfied with the present productivity of the Public sector. Public servants are also highly dissatisfied. I will take necessary steps to change this situation and improve the living conditions of public servants and their office work satisfaction as well as raise their productivity.

Accordingly

- I will carry out a new transformation in management methodology and administrative pattern so that targeted objectives could be achieved and assessed by raising the productivity of the public sector.
- The Divisional Secretariat will be made the chief unit that performs the priority tasks of the area. It will coordinate all activities such as skills development and supply of resources pertaining to the development of the economic, social, industrial and cultural sectors of the area.
- New legislation will be framed so that employer – employee relations in the semi-public sector and allied institutions would lead to

long-term contractual relations based on discussions among relevant parties. An appropriate industrial peace and stability will be built under which conditions of employment would not be violated in any way.

- I will take steps to make permanent contract and casual employees with 180 days of service and who have completed recruitment qualifications. Necessary steps will be taken to make all recruitment to the public service on merit, based on a system of examinations.
- I will provide facilities through the intervention of the State for State employees on contract and casual basis to obtain a loan under a concessionary rate to buy a piece of land, to build a house, to purchase a motor cycle or for any other urgent need.
- I will implement a plan corresponding to Singapore's Thamasek model to regularise the management of State owned strategic institutions and sectors such as State banks, the harbour, energy, water supply, airports and transport.
- Graduates attached to the Economic Development Ministry and engaged in servile political activities will be absorbed into regular service institutions and a scheme of promotion that suits their qualifications will be established and implemented.
- The motor cycle loan granted to public servants will be totally written off. Rs. 50,000 paid by them at the time of obtaining the motor cycle will be refunded to them. Also I will provide an opportunity for public servants who lost that opportunity for various institutional reasons to appeal and qualify for that facility.
- I will initiate an international investigation with the cooperation of foreign countries on persons who have robbed Sri Lankan wealth and taken it abroad. All wealth earned through improper means will be given back to the people.
- The involvement of State intelligence agencies for political and civil activities will be prohibited by law.
- The service of all officers of the Civil Defence Force will be made permanent. The employment of all officers of the Security forces in occupations that undermine the dignity of their profession will be terminated and they will be directed to social services that would safeguard the dignity of their service. The practice of doing domestic work at politicians' houses will be completely stopped.
- I will take into custody all illegal firearms that are in the possession of individuals allegedly under the cover of the public service. Illegal

armed groups will be disbanded and their leaders and those who use State property for such activities will be dealt with strictly under the law.

- A regular census will be taken of the armaments, money, foreign assets etc. of the LTTE and those who have acquired them illegally under the cover of public service will be punished severely irrespective of their status and all such weapons and property will be confiscated.
- I will immediately stop all illegal filling of sea and land that is being carried out by the State security forces in collaboration with private security services. Also those who engaged themselves such activities illegally will be severely punished.
- All those who were subjected to political victimisation and punishment including former Army Commander Sarath Fonseka and the 43rd Chief Justice Madam Shirani Bandaranayake will be reinstated in their lost positions and their lost rights will be restored.

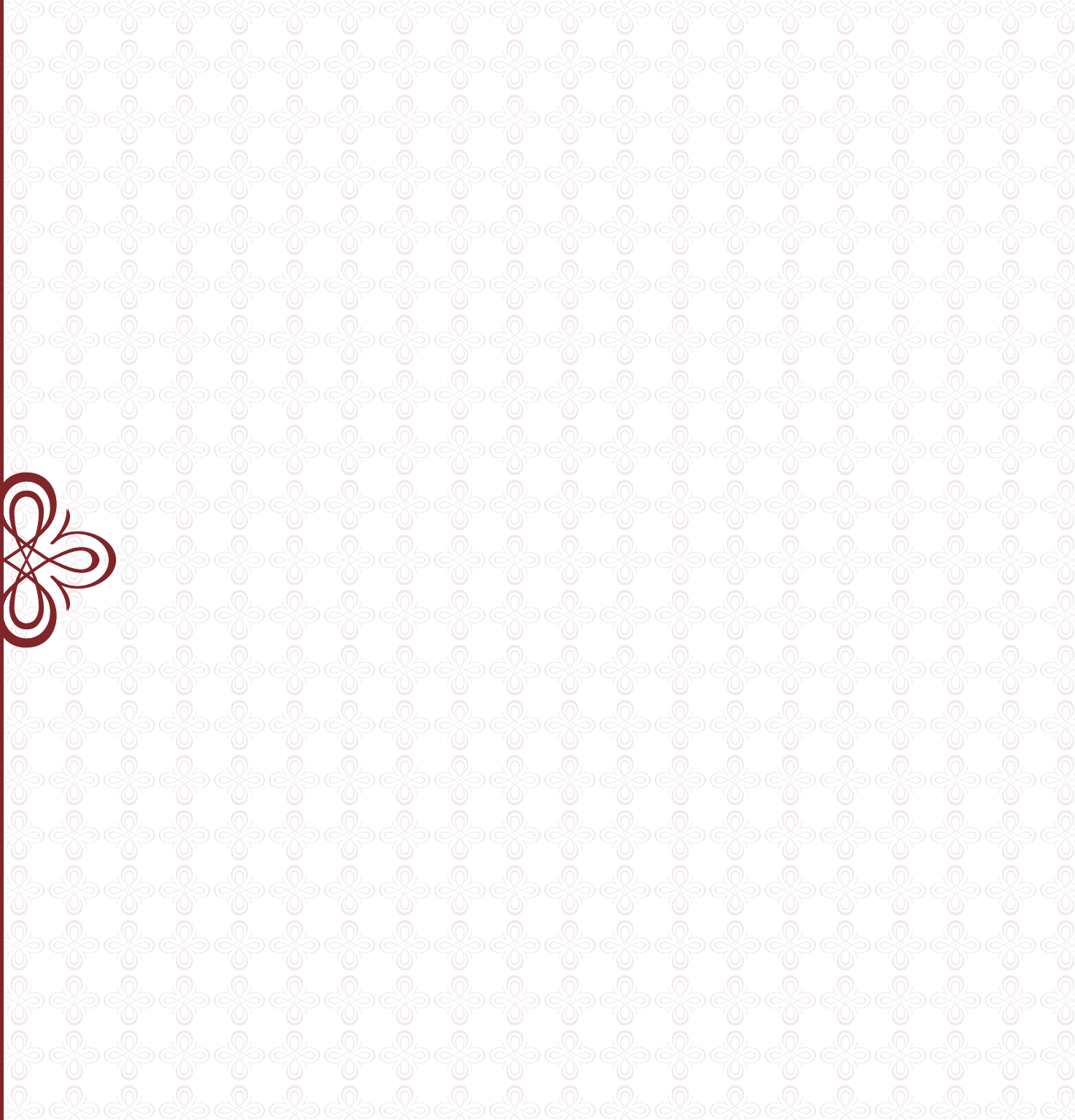


A Compassionate

Maithri

Governance

A Stable Country



10. AN ENERGY SECURE SRI LANKA



Fuel prices will be reduced by removing the excessive Rs. 40 billion tax levied by the government. Special concessions will be given to public transport services, Three-Wheelers and motor cycles. A price formula will be formulated for fuel and electricity charges. An integrated time table will be prepared for a common State and private bus service and for train services.

Energy constitutes one of the foremost factors deciding the future of the country. The transport sector totally depends on imported oil. Sixty to seventy percent of power generation also depends on imported oil and coal. The oil and electricity demand forecast of Sri Lanka indicates that the demand will double during the next 15 years. At present the process of purchasing coal and oil is corrupt and it is a large scale fraud in Sri Lanka. Hence a handful fatten their pockets while the ordinary people who consume energy suffer. I will take systematic action to completely halt this situation and provide benefits to the people.

Accordingly

- At this moment when oil prices have plummeted in the world market I will remove the over Rs 40 billion government tax on oil and pass over its benefit to the people as an immediate solution. Special subsidies will be given for public transport services, Three Wheelers and Motor cycles. The price of a domestic LP Gas cylinders will be reduced by Rs 300/-.
- As a long term solution to the fuel and electricity consumer pricing issue a suitable price formula will be introduced within hundred days. Then the people will get the benefit when the global oil and coal price falls.
- I will immediately launch a systematic programme to purchase oil and coal with transparency after investigating the irregularities that have happened in importing substandard oil and purchasing coal.
- Since irregularities have happened in the construction of power plants with over-payments of more than 50% being made, action will be taken to change this state of affairs. Our country has become economically bankrupt through mega projects such as expressways, railways, harbours, airports, power stations, reservoirs which are paraded as Asian miracles in the energy sector. These are national robberies on an unbelievable scale.
- Special attention will be given to energy security due to escalating fuel prices and daily aggravating environmental issues. I will prepare the groundwork for the country to fulfil the basic energy requirements of the people through renewable energy sources such as Dendro (biomass) power, wind power, solar power, ocean energy etc. I will specially take action to build dendro power stations throughout the country so that electricity consumers' money that hitherto drained to the pockets of the coal and oil mafia will flow to the rural peasantry. Thus I will make power generation a chief means of raising the living standards of the peasantry.
- I will gradually remove all subsidies now given for fossil fuel and hand them over to obtain renewable energy technology. In this way I will take steps to supply energy to the consumer at low cost. A rapid programme will also be undertaken to obtain for our country long term concessionary loans schemes for clean energy already in place worldwide.
- I will totally review the programme already launched to develop petroleum resources identified in Sri Lankan waters. I will stop the attempts to sell these resources to foreign

companies at cheap rates and formulate a transparent long-term programme for that purpose.

- I will introduce systems and establish infrastructure for energy conservation and use new efficient technology for the purpose. Houses and buildings will be designed for ensuring low carbon lifestyles.
- An effective solution will be found for problems in the transport sector which have escalated. Reasons for the collapse of private sector transport for the public will be investigated and solutions found. I will then work towards coordinated bus and train services for the public deploying both State and private sectors. Investment for transport services on highways and train services will be encouraged, with use of local industry.
- Though public transport provides 60% of services, it uses only 15% of oil. Therefore when the public transport service is improved

to the level of developed countries both qualitatively and quantitatively, strategies to discourage the use of private vehicles will be introduced. Necessary measures will be taken to introduce standards for raising the fuel efficiency of vehicles and for driver education. Measures will also be taken to encourage the use of electric trains and electric vehicles.

- I will act to design a system with minimum transport requirements in town and country planning. For that purpose habitats will be concentrated and necessary infra-structure facilities, schools, government services, health services, employment opportunities, small industries, markets etc. will be provided to them. A foundation will be laid to utilise information and communication technology facilities to minimise transport.
- An investigation will be conducted on the import of super luxury motor vehicles, racing cars and motor cycles and action will be taken to recover pertinent taxes.





11. A MEANINGFUL SUBSTANTIAL MEDIA FREEDOM




I will create the background necessary for providing a balanced service to the country by immediately stopping the State media being used as a propaganda weapon of the ruling party. I will consolidate to the maximum mass media freedom and the right of information.

In the present society every activity of man is subjected to the mass media. But the media has succumbed to commercialization and is dependent on dominant power structures. The right to information is curtailed in various ways while self-censorship has become a frequent feature of the media. Instead of enriching the subscriber with important information, knowledge necessary for life and advanced cultural enjoyment, mass media has been active in submerging him in simple commercial pleasures. Matters worth attention and that should reach the attention of society are hidden and trivial matters without substance are highlighted in the media. The intellectual property rights of artistic creators are being violated.

Therefore

- I will launch a short-term and a long-term programme that will protect the freedom of all mass media personnel and institutions.
- An efficient regulatory mechanism will be instituted on the basis of encouraging public service communication services while consolidating to the maximum freedom of the mass media and the Right to Information.
- I will create the background necessary for providing a balanced service to the country by immediately stopping the State media being used as a propaganda weapon of the ruling party.
- I will act to enforce a media development policy for managing developing communication technology and the expansion of social media for the good of society.
- Steps will be taken to telecast Parliament proceedings live over TV.
- Maintenance of a free media will be ensured by stopping direct and indirect threats and intimidation against print and electronic media, their owners and media personnel as well as abductions by white vans and killings.
- Wi-Fi zones will be established at public places in all towns to supply free Internet facilities.



I am committed to make the above political reforms and the socio-economic programme a total reality during the period of my administration. For that purpose I will reach an accord with all political parties represented in Parliament and with people's organizations.

After the political reforms we propose I will call a Parliamentary election with the agreement of political parties represented in Parliament. I guarantee the institution of a just electoral process in which all political parties will have equal opportunities.

I am pledged to create a necessary just political atmosphere for the establishment of a government based on the new policies put forward by me. I will be committed to build the new post-General election government as a national unity alliance.

My only ambition is to create a country suited to the 21st Century and full of modernity where there will be no UNP –SLFP party differences, Sinhala – Tamil – Muslim racial divisions, class-religious-caste differences. I consider this my prime duty.



*Let us overcome jungle law with justice,
barbarism with courtesy,
foolish family nepotism with noble wisdom
and hatred with compassion
May a compassionate society dawn for you.*



అశ్రీమతి పువ్వులపూర్ణి

