



ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජනාධිපති
இலங்கை சனாதிபதி
President of Sri Lanka

පණිවිඩය

66 වන නිදහස් සංවර්ධනය පවත්වන මේ අවස්ථාවේ දී අප ස්වාධීනත්වයන් යළි නැතිකිරීමට නව යටත් විජිතවාදයේ බලපෑම්වලට අවනත නොවී අනාගතය තීන්දු කිරීමට ඇති ජනතා අයිතියන් සුරැකීමට යළි ප්‍රතිඥා දෙන්නෙමු.

බෙදුම්වාදී ප්‍රස්තවාදය පරාජය කිරීමෙන් පසු නව ශක්තියක් ලැබූ අප ස්වාධීන දේශය දැන් ප්‍රගතිය දෙසට ගමන වේගවත් කර ඇත. අප ඉලක්කයන් සපුරා ගැනීම සඳහා නව සමාර්ය, දේශපාලන සහ ආර්ථික ක්‍රමවේදයන් මෙන්ම වරාය, ගුවන් තොටුපොළ, මහා මාර්ග, විදුලිබලය සහ බලශක්ති යනාදී යටිතල පහසුකම් ද කර්මාන්ත, වාණිජ, වෙළඳ, අධ්‍යාපන සහ ක්ෂේත්‍රයන් හි නවීන තාක්ෂණ කුසලතා නංවාලීම ද අප ප්‍රගතිය උදෙසා අත්‍යවශ්‍යය. එයින් බොහෝමයක් දැනටමත් ස්ථාපිත කර ඇති අතර අභියෝගයන්ට සාර්ථකව මුහුණ දීම සඳහා තව බොහෝ දේ ජයගත යුතුව ඇත.

අතීතයේ ලත් ශ්‍රී විභූතිය යළි සාක්ෂාත් කර ගැනීමටත්, ඉදිරි ජයග්‍රහණයන් සාර්ථක කර ගැනීමටත් එමගින් ස්වාධීනත්වය සවිමත් කිරීමටත් ඇති හොඳම මාවත දේශීය දැනුම සහ හැකියාවන් වර්ධනය කර ගැනීම බව අපේ විශ්වාසය යි.

නිදහස සමරන මේ අවස්ථාවේ දී අප මව්බිමේ ස්වෛරීත්වයට සහ ජාතික ඒකාග්‍රතාවයට බලහඳු කර්ජන වල්ල වූ අවස්ථාවන් හි දී ධෛර්යයෙන් යුතුව එයට මුහුණ දුන් විරෝධාර රණවිරුවන් කෘතඥතා පූර්වකව සිහිපත් කරමු. අපට එක්සත්ව සහ නිදහස්ව දිවිගෙවිය හැකි බව ජීවිත පරිත්‍යාගයෙන් සහතික කළ රණවිරුවන්ට අපේ මනත් ගෞරවය හිමි වේ.

නොබැඳි පිළිවෙතටත් සාධාරණත්වයට සහ මනුෂ්‍යත්වයටත් අපේ වූ පූර්ණ කැපවීම නිසා ජාත්‍යන්තරය තුළ අපගේ මිතුරු දේශයන් මැත දශක වලදී අපට මුහුණපෑමට සිදු වූ ප්‍රශ්න සහ අභියෝගයන් අවබෝධ කරගෙන නිදහසේ ඉදිරියට පියවර තැබීමට ජාත්‍යන්තර වේදිකාවේ දී සහාය දෙති.

ඔබගේත් මගේත් සිහිනය තමී ශ්‍රී ලංකාව එක ධජයක් යටතේ එක රටක් ලෙස නැගී සිටිනු දැකීම ය. මේ සඳහා අපි ධෛර්යයෙන් අවංකව වෙහෙසී ක්‍රියා කළ යුතු ය. ඒ සඳහා අපට භූගෝලීය සහ වාර්ගික සීමාවන් තරණය කළ දේශප්‍රේමීත්වයක් සහ එක්සත් හා සවිමත් සංකීර්ණයක් අවශ්‍ය වෙයි.



ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාතාන්ත්‍රික සමාජවාදී ජනරජය
இலங்கைச் சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசு
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

ප්‍රොඩ් අතීතයේ උද්වේගයෙන් සහ නූතන ජයග්‍රහණයන්ගෙන් ලද ශක්තිය තුළින් සාමයෙන් සහ සංවිදියාවෙන් දිවි ගෙවිය හැකි දේශයක් අප අනාගත පරම්පරාවට දායාද කිරීමට එමගින් සවිමත් පදනමක් දැමිය හැක. අප දිනාගත් සාමය හා නිදහස තුළින් අපේ දේශය හා ජනතාව උදෙසා එබඳු අනාගතයක් ගොඩනැගීමට අප එක්ව ප්‍රතිඥා දෙමු.

මහින්ද රාජපක්ෂ
මහින්ද රාජපක්ෂ

2014 ජනවාරි මස 29 වන දින



ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාතාන්ත්‍රික සමාජවාදී ජනරජය
இலங்கைக் சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசு
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

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ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජනාධිපති
இலங்கை சனாதிபதி
President of Sri Lanka

வாழ்த்துச் செய்தி

66ஆவது சுதந்திரதின விழாவைக் கொண்டாடும் இன்றைய நாளில், எமது மக்களின் சுதந்திரத்தையும் உரிமைகளையும் பாதுகாப்பதற்கான எமது அர்ப்பணத்தை மீள உறுதிப்படுத்தி, மீண்டும் மேலெழுந்துவரும் காலணித்துவ சக்திகளின் அதிகார ஆணைகளில் இருந்து விடுபட்டு எமது எதிர்காலத்தை நாம் தீர்மானிப்போம்.

பிரிவினைவாதப் பயங்கரவாதிகளைத் தோற்கடித்ததன் மூலம் எமது சுதந்திரம் பலப்படுத்தப்பட்டுள்ள நிலையில், நாம் முன்னேற்றத்தை நோக்கி எமது பயணத்தை விரைவுபடுத்தியுள்ளோம். இது துறைமுகங்கள், விமானநிலையங்கள், நெடுஞ்சாலைகள், சக்தி, வலு போன்ற நவீன உட்கட்டமைப்புகளையும் கைத்தொழில், வர்த்தகம் மற்றும் கல்வி போன்ற துறைகளில் புதிய போக்குகளையும் உள்ளடக்கிய புதிய சமூக, அரசியல் மற்றும் பொருளாதார மூலோபாயங்களை வேண்டிநிற்கிறது. அபிவிருத்திக்கான புதிய முன்னெடுப்பில் இவற்றில் அநேகமானவை ஏற்கெனவே அடையப்பெற்றுள்ள நிலையில், பல்வேறு சவால்களுக்கு மத்தியில் அடையப்பெறவேண்டிய பல விடயங்கள் இன்னும் எஞ்சியுள்ளன.

எமது கடந்தகால மகிமையை மீண்டும் ஏற்படுத்தவும் எதிர்கால வெற்றிகளை நோக்கி வேகமாகப் பயணிக்கவும் அதனூடாக எமது சுதந்திரத்தைப் பலப்படுத்தவும் சிறந்தவழி சுதேச திறமைகளையும் அறிவையும் விருத்தி செய்வதிலேயே பெரிதும் தங்கியுள்ளதென்பது எமது நம்பிக்கையாகும்.

சுதந்திரத்தைக் கொண்டாடும் இச்சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் எமது தாய் நாட்டின் இறைமையையும் ஆள்புல எல்லையையும் பாதுகாப்பதற்காக துணிச்சலுடன் முன்வந்த எமது பாதுகாப்புப்படை உறுப்பினர்களை நாம் ஆழ்ந்த நன்றியோடு நினைவுகூறவேண்டும். நாம் சுதந்திரமாகவும் ஐக்கியமாகவும் வாழ்வதை உறுதி செய்வதற்கு அவர்கள் செய்த பாரிய தியாகங்களை நாம் எப்போதும் மதிக்கவும் அதற்காக நன்றிகூறவும் கடமைப்பட்டுள்ளோம்.

நதி மற்றும் மனிதாபிமானத்திற்கான அர்ப்பணத்துடன் கூடிய எமது அணிசேராக்கொள்கை காரணமாக அண்மைய தசாப்தங்களில் சர்வதேச சமூகத்தைச் சேர்ந்த பல நட்பு நாடுகள் எமது பிரச்சினைகளையும் சவால்களையும் நன்கு புரிந்துகொண்டுள்ளதுடன், சர்வதேச பொதுத் தளங்களில் எமக்கு உதவவும் அவர்கள் தயாராக உள்ளனர்.

ஒரு ஐக்கிய தேசத்தில் ஒரே கொடியின் கீழ் இலங்கை தேசத்தைப் பலப்படுத்த வேண்டும் என்ற உங்களது கனவை நானும் பகிர்ந்துகொள்கிறேன். இதனை அடைந்து வதற்கு நாம் நேர்மையுடனும் விடாமுயற்சியுடனும் கடுமையாக உழைக்க வேண்டும். இதற்கு புவியியல் மற்றும் சமூக தடைகளைத் தாண்டிய தேசப்பற்றும் பலமானதும் உறுதியானதுமான நல்லிணக்கமும் அவசியமாகும்.

எமது கடந்தகாலத்திலிருந்து நாம் பெற்ற ஊக்கத்துடனும் புதிய அடைவுகளிலிருந்து பெற்ற பலத்துடனும் சமாதானமாகவும் ஐக்கியமாகவும் வாழ்வதற்கான ஒரு தேசத்தை எமது எதிர்கால பரம்பரையினருக்கு விட்டுச்செல்வதற்கான ஒரு பலமான அடித்தளத்தை இதன்மூலம் இடமுடியும்.



ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාතාන්ත්‍රික සමාජවාදී ජනරජය
இலங்கைச் சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசு
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

(9/6)

Cir :32

நாம் வென்றெடுத்த சமாதானம் மற்றும் சுதந்திரத்தினூடாக எமது தேசத்திற்காகவும் மக்களுக்காகவும் அத்தகையதொரு எதிர்காலத்தைக் கட்டியெழுப்புவதற்கு நாம் ஒன்றுசேர்ந்து உறுதியுணர்வோம்.


மணிந்த ராஜபக்ஷ

2014 சனவரி 29 ஆம் திகதி



ශ්‍රී ලංකා ඉන්ද්‍රජයාන්ත්‍රික සමාජවාදී ජනරජය
இலங்கைக் சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசு
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

(5/6)
Cir:32



ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජනාධිපති
இலங்கை சனாதிபதி
President of Sri Lanka

Message

On this day, as we celebrate the 66th anniversary of our independence, we restate our commitment to safeguard the freedom and rights of our people, and decide on our future free of dictates from the re-emerging forces of colonialism.

With our freedom strengthened by the defeat of separatist terrorism, we proceed on our journey towards progress. This requires new social, political and economic strategies that include modern infrastructure such as ports, airports, highways, power and energy and the latest trends in industry, commerce and trade, and education. While most of this is already in place, in the new drive for development, much more remains to be achieved offering exciting challenges ahead.

It is our belief that the strength of our freedom largely depend on developing indigenous skills and knowledge, to restore the glories of our past and move ahead to the victories of the future.

As we celebrate our freedom today we should remember with the deep gratitude the members of our Security Forces who courageously stepped forward to defend our sovereignty and territorial integrity when they were under grave threat. We shall always honour and pay tribute to the great sacrifices they made to ensure that we live in freedom and unity.

Our policy of Non-Alignment, with a commitment to justice and humanity, has brought us friends in the global community who understand our trials in recent decades, and are ready to help us go forward in freedom with the assurance of support in international fora.

I share your dream to strengthen the Sri Lankan nation under a single flag in a united country. Achieving this requires hard work, with diligence and honesty of purpose. It calls for patriotism that transcends the barriers of geography and community, with reconciliation in a rich unity of purpose.

This will lay the foundation for the success of our children and future generations who will inherit this land, to live in peace and harmony bringing the glories of new achievements that inspire us from our past. Let us together pledge to build this future for our land and people in the peace and freedom we have won.

Mahinda Rajapaksa

January 29, 2014



ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජනාධිපතිවරයාගේ පණත
இலங்கைச் சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசு
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka



The Prime Minister
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

ගරු අග්‍රාමාත්‍යතුමාගේ පණිවිඩය

ශ්‍රී ලංකාව 66 වන නිදහස් දින සංවත්සරය සමරන්නේ අවුරුදු අටක පලත කාලය තුළ වත්මන් රජය විසින් දියත් කළ ආර්ථික, සමාජීය හා සංස්කෘතික යන ක්ෂේත්‍රයන්ගේ සුවිශේෂී ඉලක්කයන් සපුරාගෙන තිබෙන වකවානුවකය.

කෙදිනකවත් පරාජය කළ නොහැකි ශැගි සිතු කුරුරු ත්‍රස්තවාදය 2009 මැයි මසදී පරාජය කරනු ලැබීමත් සමගම රට සමාන්‍ය තත්ත්වයට පත්වීම නිසා රටට හා ජනතාවට සුවිශේෂී ප්‍රතිඵලයක් ලෙස කර දුන් සංවර්ධන ව්‍යාපෘතීන් බොහෝ ගණනක් දියත් කිරීමට රජයට හැකියාව ලැබීණ.

සුද්ධයෙන් විනාශ වූ උතුරු නැගෙනහිර ආර්ථික හා සමාජ ව්‍යුහය යථා තත්ත්වයට පත් කිරීමට ඉටුහල් වන භෞතික හා සමාජයීය යටිතල ව්‍යාපෘතීන් රැසක් එම ප්‍රදේශ වල කඩිනමින් ක්‍රියාත්මක වෙමින් තිබේ. අවතැන් වූ පුද්ගලයින් පුනරුත්ථාපනය කිරීම හා නැවත පදිංචි කරවීම කෙටි කාලයක් තුළ අවසන් කෙරිණ. කෘෂිකර්ම, බීවර හා සුළු කර්මාන්ත යනාදිය යළි පණගැන්වීම හරහා ජනතාවගේ ජීවනෝපායන් ශක්තිමත් කෙරිණ. උතුරු පළාතේ පළාත් සභාව පිහිටුවීම සඳහා සාර්ථකව නිම කෙරුණු 2013 ශැප්තැම්බර් මස පවත්වන ලද මැතිවරණය රට තුළ ඩිමොක්‍රැසි ජන කොටස් අතර ප්‍රතිසංධානය, අවබෝධය හා සාමය ඇති කරලීමේ සුවිශේෂී සන්ධිස්ථානයක් විය.

අතිගරු ජනාධිපතිතුමාගේ දුර දක්නා නායකත්වය යටතේ මෙම අවුරුදු අටක කාලය තුළ බලශක්ති උත්පාදනය, ජල සම්පාදන, වාර මාර්ග, තාපික, ගුවන්, නිවාස, විදුලි සංදේශ, තොරතුරු තාක්ෂණ, ප්‍රවාහන ආදී ආර්ථිකමය වශයෙන් ඉතා වැදගත් ක්ෂේත්‍රයන්හි මහා පරිමාණ ව්‍යාපෘතීන් සැලකිය යුතු සංඛ්‍යාවක් ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීම සුවිශේෂී වේ. නොරොට්ටොලේ හා ඉහළ කොත්මලේ විදුලි බලාගාර, හම්බන්තොට වරාය, දකුණු - කොළඹ වරාය, මත්තල ජාත්‍යන්තර ගුවන් තොටුපල, අධිවේගී මාර්ග මෙම ව්‍යාපෘතීන් අතර සාඩම්බර ස්ථාන හිමිකර ගත්. රටේ ආර්ථික සංවර්ධනය ඉතා ඉහළ තලයකට ගෙන ඒම උදෙසා ආර්ථිකයේ හට කේන්ද්‍රික ක්ෂේත්‍රයන් වශයෙන් සැලකෙන මුහුදු, ගුවන්, අධ්‍යාපන, වෛද්‍ය හා බලශක්ති යන "නව පංච මහා බලවේගයන්" ස්ථාපිත කෙරිණ.

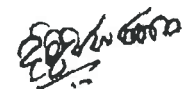
සංචාරකයින් විශාල වශයෙන් පැමිණීමත් සමගම සංචාරක ක්ෂේත්‍රය තුළ පෙර තොටු වරු පරිදි ප්‍රගතියක් වාර්තා වූ අතර හෝටල් නවාතැන් පහසුකම් ප්‍රමාණය ඉහළ ගියේය. රටේ සෑම ප්‍රදේශයකම ඉදිකිරීම් ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ පිවිදීමක් දක්නට ඇත. ප්‍රධාන නගර හා සුළු නගර අලංකරණය කිරීම දේශීය මෙන්ම විදේශීය අමුත්තන්ගේද ආකර්ෂකයට හේතු වී ඇත.

සහල් නිෂ්පාදනයෙන් රට ස්වයං පෝෂිතව ඇත. රට තුළ දරිද්‍රතාවය හා විරැකියාව 5%ව වඩා අඩු මට්ටමකට වැටී ඇත. මේ වන විට ශ්‍රී ලංකාව මැදි මට්ටමේ ආදායම්ලාභී රටක් ලෙස පිළිගෙන ඇත. 2016 වර්ෂය වන විට රටේ ජන පුද්ගල ආදායම ඇමෙරිකානු ඩොලර් 4000 නරා ලඟවීම අපගේ සුභවාදී බලාපොරොත්තුවයි.

2013 නොවැම්බර් මස පවත්වන ලද පොදුරාජ්‍ය මණ්ඩල නායක සමුළුවේ සාර්ථක සත්කාරකත්වය සමග විවිධ කෙණ්ඩුයන්හි අප ලබා ඇති සුවිශේෂී ප්‍රගතිය ලොවට ප්‍රදර්ශනය කිරීමට අපට හැකිවිය. ත්‍රස්තවාදය පරාජය කර කෙටි කලක් තුළ විවිධ ක්ෂේත්‍රයන් වලින් රටක් ලෙස අප ලබා ඇති දැවැන්ත ප්‍රගතිය මෙහි පැමිණී රාජ්‍ය නායකයින්ගේ මවිතයට හේතු විය. තවද, පොදු රාජ්‍ය මණ්ඩල රාජ්‍ය නායක සමුළුවේදී ඉදිරි වර්ෂ දෙක සඳහා පොදු රාජ්‍ය මණ්ඩලීය සහාපතිත්වය ශ්‍රී ලංකාවට පිරිනැමීම අප ලැබූ ඉතා සුවිශේෂී ජයග්‍රහණයකි.

ආර්ථික, සමාජයීය හා සංස්කෘතික කෙණ්ඩුයන්හි නව ප්‍රබෝධයක් ඇති කරමින් වැඩිකල් නොගොස් "ආසියාවේ ආශ්චර්යය" බවට පත් වීමට ඉටුසල් වන්නා වූ තවත් බොහෝ ව්‍යාපෘතීන් ගණනාවක් ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීමට අපේක්ෂිතය. මෙම අරමුණු සාක්ෂාත් කරගනු වස් දේශප්‍රේමී ජනතාවක් ලෙස ඒ සඳහා වන දායකත්වය, සහයෝගය හා කැපවීම රජය වෙත ලබා දීම අපගේ පරම යුතුකමකි.

අප මව්බිමේ 66 වන නිදහස් දින සංවත්සරය සමරන අද දින ජාතික ගොඩනැගීමේ අතිවිශිෂ්ට කර්තව්‍ය උදෙසා අපගේ සාමූහිකත්ව දායකත්වය ලබාදීමට අවිෂ්ඨාන කර ගනිමු.


ආචාර්ය ඩී.මු. ජයරත්න
ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාතන්ත්‍රවාදී සමාජවාදී ජනරජයේ ගරු අග්‍රාමාත්‍ය

2014 පෙබරවාරි 04 දින



The Prime Minister
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

கௌரவ பிரதம அமைச்சரின் செய்தி

கடந்த எட்டு வருட ஆட்சிக்காலத்தினுள் தற்போதைய அரசாங்கத்தினால் நாட்டில் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டுள்ள பொருளாதார, சமூக மற்றும் கலாசார ரீதியாக முன்னேற்றமடைந்துள்ள காலகட்டத்தில் இலங்கையானது தனது 66வது சுதந்திர தினத்தை விமரிசையாகக் கொண்டாடுகின்றது.

எக்காலத்திலும் தோற்கடிக்கப்பட முடியாதென எண்ணிய குரூர பயங்கரவாதம் 2009 மே மாதம் தோற்கடிக்கப்பட்டதுடன், நாடு இயல்பு நிலைக்குத் திரும்பியதன் காரணமாக நாட்டுக்கும் நாட்டு மக்களுக்கும் பல்வேறு நன்மைகளை ஈட்டிக்கொடுத்துள்ள பல அபிவிருத்தித் திட்டங்களைச் செயற்படுத்துவதற்கு இந்த அரசாங்கத்தினால் முடிந்துள்ளது.

யுத்தத்தினால் பாதிப்புக்குட்பட்ட வடக்கு, கிழக்கு பொருளாதார மற்றும் சமூகக் கட்டமைப்பை இயல்புநிலைக்குக் கொண்டு வருவதற்குத் தேவையான பௌதீக மற்றும் சமூக ரீதியான திட்டங்கள் பல அப்பிரதேசங்களில் துரிதமாக நடைமுறைப்படுத்தப்பட்டு வருகின்றன. இடம்பெயர்ந்த மக்களை மீள் குடியேற்றுவதற்கும் புனர்வாழ்வளிப்பதற்கும் ஒரு குறுகிய காலத்தினுள் முடியுமாகியது. விவசாயம், மீன்பிடி மற்றும் சிறுகைத்தொழில் போன்ற துறைகளை மீண்டும் உயிர்ப்பித்ததன் ஊடாக மக்களின் வாழ்வாதாரங்கள் பலப்படுத்தப்பட்டுள்ளன. வடமாகாண சபையை அமைப்பதற்காக 2013, செப்டெம்பர் மாதம் தேர்தலை வெற்றிகரமாக நடாத்தி முடித்ததனால் அது, நாட்டில் வாழும் பல் இனத்தனவர்களிடையேயும் நல்லிணக்கம், புரிந்துணர்வு மற்றும் சமாதானத்தினை ஏற்படுத்துவதற்கான திருப்புமுனையாக அமைந்தது.

அதிமேதகு ஜனாதிபதி அவர்களின் தூரநோக்குள்ள தலைமைத்துவத்தின் கீழ் இந்த எட்டு வருட காலத்தினுள் சக்தி வள உருவாக்கம், நீர் வழங்கல், நீர்ப்பாசனம், கப்பந்துறை, விமானப் போக்குவரத்து, தொலைத்தொடர்பு, தகவல் தொழில்நுட்பம், போக்குவரத்து; வீடமைப்பு போன்ற பொருளாதார ரீதியாக மிக முக்கியத்துவம் வாய்ந்த துறைகளை அடிப்படையாகக் கொண்ட பாரிய அளவிலான சில கருத்திட்டங்கள் செயற்படுத்தப்படுவதனை சிறப்பான விடயமாகக் குறிப்பிடலாம். நுரைச்சோலை மற்றும் மேல்கொத்தமலை மின்சாரத் திட்டம், அம்பாந்தோட்டைத் துறைமுகம், கொழும்பு - தெற்கு துறைமுகம், மத்தல சர்வதேச விமான நிலையம், அதிவேகப் பாதைகள் இந்தக் கருத்திட்டங்களுள் அடங்குகின்றன. நாட்டின் பொருளாதார அபிவிருத்தியை ஓர் உயர்ந்த மட்டத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவரும் நோக்கில் பொருளாதாரத்தின் புதிய துறைகளாகக் கருதப்படும் கடல், ஆகாயம், கல்வி, வர்த்தகம் மற்றும் சக்தி வளம் போன்ற "புதிய ஐம் பெரும் சக்திகள்" ஸ்தாபிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன.

உல்லாசப் பயணிகள் அதிகளவில் இந்த நாட்டுக்கு வருகைதரத் தொடங்கியதுடன், அத்துறையில் முன்னெப்பொழுதுமில்லாதவாறு முன்னேற்றத்தினைக் காணக்கூடியதாக இருப்பதுடன் அதனால் வேறாட்டல் தங்குமிட வசதிகளும் அதிகரித்துள்ளன. நாட்டின் அனைத்துப் பிரதேசங்களிலும் நிர்மாணத்துறையில் ஒரு மறுமலர்ச்சியைக் காணக்கூடியதாக இருக்கின்றது. பிரதான நகரம் மற்றும் சிறிய நகரங்கள் அழகுபடுத்தப்படுவதானது தேசிய மற்றும் சர்வதேச உல்லாசப் பயணிகளின் மனதை கவர்ந்தெடுப்பதற்குக் காரணமாக அமைந்துள்ளது.

அரிசி உற்பத்தியில் இந்த நாடு தன்னிறைவு கண்டுள்ளது. நாட்டிலுள் வறுமை மற்றும் தொழிலின்மை 5% தினைவிட கீழ் மட்டத்தில் காணப்படுகின்றது. தற்போது, இலங்கை மத்தியதர வருமானம் பெறும் ஒரு நாடாக ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளப்பட்டுள்ளது. 2016 ஆம் ஆண்டாகும்போது தனிநபர் வருமானத்தை 4000 அமெரிக்க டொலர்கள் வரை அதிகரித்துக்கொள்வதே எமது நம்பிக்கைமிக்க எதிர்பார்ப்பாகும்.

2013, நவம்பர் மாதம் இங்கு நடைபெற்ற பொதுநலவாய அரசு தலைவர்கள் மாநாட்டுக்காக எமது நாடு வழங்கிய சிறப்பான அனுசரணை காரணமாக பல்வேறு துறைகளில் நாம் பெற்றுக்கொண்டுள்ள சிறப்பான முன்னேற்றத்தினை சர்வதேசத்திற்கு எடுத்தியம்புவதற்கு எம்மால் முடியுமாகியது. பயங்கரவாதம் தோற்கடிக்கப்பட்டு ஒரு சிறிய காலத்திற்குள் பல்வேறு துறைகளில் நாடு என்ற வகையில் நாம் பெற்றுக்கொண்டுள்ள பாரிய முன்னேற்றமானது இங்கு வருகை தந்த அரசு தலைவர்களின் ஆச்சரியத்திற்குக் காரணமாக அமைந்தது. மேலும், பொதுநலவாய அரசு தலைவர்கள் மாநாட்டின்போது எதிர்வரும் இரண்டு வருடங்களுக்கு அதன் தலைமைத்துவம் இலங்கைக்கு வழங்கப்பட்டமையானது நாம் பெற்றுக்கொண்ட பெரு வெற்றியாகும்.

பொருளாதார, சமூக மற்றும் கலாசாரத் துறைகளில் மறுமலர்ச்சியை ஏற்படுத்தி ஒரு சிறிய காலத்திற்குள் “ஆசியாவின் ஆச்சரியமாக” மாறுவதற்கு துணைபுரியும் இன்னும் பல்வேறு கருத்திட்டங்களைச் செயற்படுத்துவதற்கு உத்தேசிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. இந்த நோக்கங்களை நிறைவேற்றிக் கொள்வதற்காக இத் தேசத்தை நேசிக்கும் மக்கள் என்ற வகையில் அதற்கான பங்களிப்பினையும் ஒத்துழைப்பினையும் அர்ப்பணிப்பினையும் இந்த அரசாங்கத்திற்குப் பெற்றுக்கொடுப்பது எமது பொறுப்பாகும்.

எமது தாய் நாட்டின் 66 ஆவது சுதந்திர தினத்தைக் கொண்டாடும் இன்றைய தினத்தில் இந்தத் தேசத்தைக் கட்டியெழுப்பும் அதி முக்கியத்துவம் வாய்ந்த பணிக்காக எமது ஒற்றுமையுடன்கூடிய பங்களிப்பினை பெற்றுக்கொடுப்பதற்கு நாம் அனைவரும் உறுதி பூணுவோம்.



கலாநிதி தி.மு.ஜயரத்ன

இலங்கை சனநாயக சோசலிஷ்க் குடியரசின் கௌரவ பிரதம அமைச்சர்

2014 பெப்ரவரி மாதம் 04 ஆம் திகதி



The Prime Minister
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

The Message of the Hon. Prime Minister

Sri Lanka celebrates her 66th Anniversary of Independence at a time when the country has gained remarkable achievements in the economic, social and cultural spheres ushered in by the present Government during its eight year tenure.

With the defeat of terrorism in May 2009 which was considered unachievable, normalcy returned to the country that enabled the Government to embark on many a development project that yielded far-reaching benefits to the country and the people.

The war devastated economy and the social fabric of the North and the East of the country are being speedily restored through the implementation of a multitude of physical and social infrastructure projects. Rehabilitation and resettlement of displaced persons were completed within a short period. The livelihood of the people was strengthened by resuscitating the agriculture, fisheries and small industries, etc. The successful completion of the elections in September 2013 for setting up of the Provincial Council of the Northern Province is a land-mark event that augers well for promotion of reconciliation, understanding and peace among our different communities.

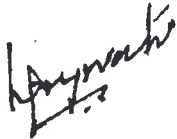
It is significant that a record number of major development projects in the vital sectors of the economy; such as power generation, water supply, irrigation, shipping, aviation, telecommunication, housing, information technology, transport, etc. were implemented within this eight year period under the visionary leadership of H.E. the President. Among these projects, power generation plants at Norochchalai and Upper Kotmale; Hambantota Port, South-Colombo Port, Mattala International Airport, two Express ways, take pride of place. Five new thrust sectors of the economy – Maritime, Aviation, Knowledge, Commercial and Energy referred to as “new hubs” had been established to propel the country’s economic development to greater heights.

Tourism sector had recorded unprecedented improvement with high tourist arrivals and increased hotel accommodation. There is a construction boom in all parts of the country. Beautification of major cities and townships have attracted both the local and the foreign visitors. The country has achieved self-sufficiency in rice production. The poverty level and unemployment had been brought down below 5%. Sri Lanka is now considered a middle-level income country. We are optimistic that the country will reach per capita income of US\$ 4,000 by year 2016.

The country’s advancement in diverse spheres could be showcased to the outside world when Sri Lanka hosted quite successfully CHOGM IN November 2013. The visiting heads of states were marvelled at the vast strides the country has taken in many fronts in a short period since the defeat of terrorism. Additionally, at the CHOGM Sri Lanka was elevated to the Chair of the Commonwealth for the next two years which marks a high-point in the country’s achievements.

The country is poised to take off for further advancement in the economic, social and cultural spheres by implementing many more ambitious projects to emerge as the "Wonder of Asia" before long. It is therefore incumbent on all of us, the patriotic citizens of the country, to extend our unstinted support, cooperation and commitment to the Government in its endeavour to achieve this objective.

On this day, we celebrate the 66th Anniversary of Independence of our motherland, we resolve to dedicate ourselves to contribute collectively to this laudable task of nation building.



Dr. D.M. Jayaratne
Prime Minister
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

04 February 2014



Prof. G. L. Peiris M. P.
Minister of External Affairs
Sri Lanka

නිදහස් දින පණිවුඩය : ගරු විදේශ කටයුතු අමාත්‍ය

කෙටි කාලයක් තුළ දී අප රට අත්කරගෙන තිබෙන විවිධ ජයග්‍රහණයන්හි අභිමානය පිළිබිඹු කිරීමට ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ 66 වැනි නිදහස් දින සංවත්සරය උචිත අවස්ථාවක් වෙයි.

සිව් වසරකට ඉහත දී ත්‍රස්තවාදය පැරදවීමෙන් අනතුරුව අත්කරගෙන තිබෙන විශිෂ්ට ප්‍රගතිය පිළිබඳව අපට ආඩම්බරයට පත්විය හැකි අතර අප ජනතාව දැන් එක්සත් ශ්‍රී ලංකාවක් තුළ සාමය භුක්ති විඳිමින් සිටියි. පසුගිය වසර කීපය පුරා රජය විසින් සුවිශේෂී සංවර්ධන පරිශ්‍රමයක් දරා තිබේ. වරාය, ඉවන් තොටුපොළ හා මහාමාර්ග ඉදිකරමින්, ග්‍රාමීය ප්‍රදේශවලට ආර්ථික සමෘද්ධිය ළඟාකර දෙමින්, රට ලබා ඇති සුවිශාල ආර්ථික වර්ධනයට එකී ව්‍යාපෘති සම්බන්ධ කරමින් දැවැන්ත සංවර්ධන වැඩසටහන් ක්‍රියාත්මක කරමින් සිටියි. මෙම සංවර්ධන කටයුතුවල ප්‍රතිඵලයක් ලෙස සමාජයට අත්වන ඉඩප්‍රස්තාර රට පුරා විසිරී සිටින සියලුම ප්‍රජාවන් නභා සිටුවීම සහ ඔවුන්ගේ අභිවෘද්ධිය උදෙසා බෙදී යන බව නභවුරු කිරීමට රජය ඇපකැප වෙයි.

වසර ගණනාවකට පසු උතුරු පළාතේ සියලුම ප්‍රජාවන් දේශපාලන ක්‍රියාවලියකට ගෙන එමින් නිදහස් හා සාධාරණ මැතිවරණයක් පවත්වා තිබේ. අභ්‍යන්තර වශයෙන් අවතැන්වුවත් තම ගම්බිම්වල නැවත පදිංචි කරවා ඔවුනොවුන්ගේ පවුල්වලට ආපසු එකතු කිරීමට හැකි වී තිබේ. එහි ජනතාවට ජීවන වෘත්තීමය ඉඩ ප්‍රස්තාර උදාකරදීම සඳහා ධීවර, කෘෂිකර්ම හා විවිධ වූ වෙනත් කර්මාන්ත නැවත සවිබලගන්වා තිබේ.

ජාතික ක්‍රියාකාරී සැලැස්ම සහ උගන් පාඩම් හා ප්‍රතිසන්ධාන කොමිෂන් සභාවේ නිර්දේශ විශ්වසනීයව ක්‍රියාත්මක කරමින් සිටින අතර ඒවායේ අරමුණු සාක්ෂාත් කරගැනීම නභවුරු කරලීම සඳහා ප්‍රමාණවත් තරම් සම්පත් වෙන් කරමින් සිටියි. අප රට ත්‍රෛභාෂික සමාජයකට පරිවර්තනය කිරීම සඳහා ජාතික ප්‍රතිපත්තියක් සකසමින් සිටියි.

අපගේ සංවර්ධන ප්‍රයත්න සඳහා මාර්ගෝපදේශකත්වයක් ලබා දෙන රජයේ ප්‍රතිපත්ති රාමුව වන "මහින්ද වින්තන ඉදිරි දැක්ම" තුළින් ඉවත් සේවා, වාණිජ කටයුතු, සමුද්‍රීය කටයුතු හා දැනුම සම්බන්ධයෙන් ශ්‍රී ලංකාව කලාපයේ තෝරාගන්නක් බවට පත් කරගැනීම සඳහා සන්නද්ධ විමෙහි ලා මහඟු අවස්ථාවක් සලසා දී තිබේ. සංවර්ධන කටයුතු මෙන්ම එකී ක්ෂේත්‍ර අතර ඇති කරගන්නා සම්බන්ධතා හා ශක්තිමත් වර්ධනය නිසා ශ්‍රී ලංකාව ඉහළ මධ්‍යම පංතියේ ආදායම් ලබන රටක් බවට පත්ව සිටියි. දැනට අප රටේ උදා වී තිබෙන සාමයෙන් හා ස්ථාවරත්වයෙන් යුතු වාතාවරණය උසස් ආර්ථික සංවර්ධන කටයුතු සඳහා අත්‍යවශ්‍ය තත්ත්වයක් වේ.

නොබැඳි රටවල් ඇතුළුව සියලු රටවල් සමඟ මිත්‍රත්වයෙන් කටයුතු කිරීමේ මුලධර්මය තුළින් මාර්ගෝපදේශකත්වය ලබා සිටින ශ්‍රී ලංකාව ශක්තිමත් හා නිරසාර විදේශ ප්‍රතිපත්තියක් අනුගමනය කරමින් සම්මත් සම්බන්ධතා පවත්වාගෙන යමින් සිටියි. රටවල් විශාල සංඛ්‍යාවක් සමඟ රාජ්‍යතාන්ත්‍රික සම්බන්ධතා පවත්වාගෙන යන අපි ලෝකයේ විවිධ දිශා භාගයන්හි නව දූත මණ්ඩල ආරම්භ කොට එමගින් විවිධ ජාතීන්ට අයත්වන ජාත්‍යන්තර ප්‍රජාව සමඟ මිත්‍රශීලී බැඳීම් තර කරගෙන ඇත්තෙමු.

ජාත්‍යන්තරව සලකා බලන කළ ශ්‍රී ලංකාව, 2013 නොවැම්බර් මාසයේ දී පොදු රාජ්‍ය මණ්ඩලීය ආණ්ඩු ප්‍රධානීන්ගේ රැස්වීම පැවැත් වූ අතර ඉදිරි දෙවර්ෂය තුළ පොදු රාජ්‍ය මණ්ඩලයේ සභාපතිත්වය දරමින් සිටියි. ශ්‍රී ලංකාව අත්කර ගනිමින් සිටින සුවිශාල ප්‍රගතිය හා පෙර නොවූ වීරු පශ්චාත් ගැටුම් සංවර්ධන කටයුතු ලෝක නායකයින්ට සියැසින් දැක ගැනීමට හැකිවීම විශේෂ සිද්ධියකි.

මෙරට ආර්ථික හා සමාජීය සංවර්ධන කටයුතු සඳහා නොකඩවා දායක වූ විදේශ රටවල වෙසෙන ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාවට කෘතඥතාව පිරිනැමීමට මම මෙය අවස්ථාවක් කොට ගනිමි. ශ්‍රී ලංකාවට දීප්තිමත් අනාගතයක් කරා යාමට අවකාශ සැලැසෙන ආකාරයෙන් අපට මුහුණ දීමට සිදුවන අභියෝගවල දී අපේ මව් රටටම සහයෝගය දෙමින් වඩාත් සාමූහිකව කටයුතු කිරීම සඳහා නිදහස් දිනය සමරන මෙම අවස්ථාවේ දී අපි ඇපකැප වෙමු.



මහාචාර්ය ජී.එල්.පීරිස්
ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාතාන්ත්‍රික සමාජවාදී ජනරජයේ
විදේශ කටයුතු අමාත්‍ය



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தேசிய தின உரை - வெளிவிவகார அமைச்சர்

மிகக் குறுகியதொரு காலப்பகுதியில் நாடு அடைந்திருக்கும் பல வெற்றிகளை மன நிறைவுடன் பிரதிபலித்துக் காட்டுவதற்கான மிகச் சிறந்ததொரு வாய்ப்பாக இலங்கையின் சுதந்திரத்தின் 66வது சுதந்திரதின வைவவும் அமைந்துள்ளது.

நான்கு வருடங்களுக்கு முன்னர் பயங்கரவாதம் தோற்கடிக்கப்பட்டதிலிருந்து ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்டு வந்திருக்கும் அதி உன்னத வளர்ச்சிகளையிட்டு நாட்டு மக்கள் என்ற வகையில் நாம் பெருமையடைவதுடன், எமது மக்களும் இலங்கையில் சமாதானத்தை அனுபவித்துக் கொண்டிருக்கின்றனர். கடந்த பல வருடங்களாக அதிசிறந்த அபிவிருத்திப் பணிகளை அரசாங்கம் செய்து வருகின்றது. பொருளாதார அபிவிருத்திகளை கிராமப்புறங்களுக்குக் கொண்டு சென்று அவற்றை நாட்டின் பெரும் பொருளாதார அபிவிருத்தியுடன் இணைக்கும் வகையில் துறைமுகங்களை நிர்மாணித்தல், விமான நிலையங்கள் மற்றும் பாதைகளை அமைப்பதனுடாக பல்வேறுபட்ட பாரிய அபிவிருத்தித்திட்டங்கள் செயற்படுத்தப்பட்டுக் கொண்டிருக்கின்றன. இந்த அபிவிருத்திகளின் விளைவாக சமூகம் அடைந்துகொண்ட இவ்வாய்ப்புக்களை நாடுபுராகவுமுள்ள அனைத்து இனத்தவர்களும் அவர்களுடைய வாழ்க்கையின் உயர்விற்கும் நலனிற்கும் பயன்படுத்தவேண்டுமென்பதை உறுதி செய்துகொள்வதில் அரசு அர்ப்பணத்துடன் செயற்படுகின்றது.

பல ஆண்டுகளுக்குப் பின்னர் வட மாகாணத்தில் சுதந்திரத் தேர்தல் நடைபெற்று முடிந்துள்ளது. இது முதற்தடவையாக மக்களை அரசியல் செயற்பாட்டுக்குள் கொண்டு வந்துள்ளது. சர்வதேச ரீதியில் இடம்பெயர்ந்து வாழ்ந்து வந்த மக்களுக்குத் தமது வீடுகளுக்குத் திரும்பிவரக்கூடிய வாய்ப்புக்கிட்டியுள்ளதுடன் அவர்களது குடும்பங்களுடன் மீள ஒன்றிணைந்து வாழ்வதற்கும் வாய்ப்பு கிடைத்துள்ளது. அத்துடன் மீள்பிடித்தல், விவசாயம் மற்றும் ஏனைய கைத்தொழில்களும் மக்களுக்கான வாழ்வாதார வசதிகளை வழங்குவதற்காக ஊக்கப்படுத்தப்பட்டுள்ளன.

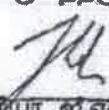
தேசிய செயல்திட்டமும், கற்றுக் கொண்ட பாடங்கள் மற்றும் நல்லிணக்க ஆணைக்குழுவின் பிரேரணைகளும் திடமாக செயற்படுத்தப்பட்டு வருவதுடன் அவர்களின் இலக்குகளை உறுதிப்படுத்தக்கொள்வதற்குரிய போதிய வளங்களும் ஒதுக்கப்பட்டு வருகின்றன. நாட்டை மும்மொழிச் சமூகமொன்றாக மாற்றுவதற்கான தேசியக் கொள்கையொன்றும் செயற்படுத்தப்பட்டு வருகின்றது.

இந்நாட்டை விமானப் போக்குவரத்து, வர்த்தகம், கடல்சார் அலுவல்கள் மற்றும் அறிவு ஆகியவற்றில் ஒரு பிராந்திய முக்கியத்துவம்மிக்க பகுதியாக எழுச் செய்வதன் பொருட்டும் அதைப் புரட்சிகரமானதாக மாற்றுவதற்கு உதவுவதன் பொருட்டும் “மஹிந்த சிந்தனை-எதிர்காலத்திற்கான தொலை நோக்கு” என்ற அரசாங்கத்தின் கொள்கைக் கட்டமைப்பானது எமது அபிவிருத்தி முயற்சிகளுக்கு வழிகாட்டுவதிலும் இலங்கையின் பாரிய திறனை வளர்த்தெடுப்பதிலும் உறுதியாக உள்ளது. இந்த அபிவிருத்திகளுடனும் அதிகரித்துக் கொண்டிருக்கும் இணைப்புகளுடனும் பலமான வளர்ச்சியுடனும் இலங்கையானது உயர் நடுத்தர வருமான நாடாகும் நிலையை நோக்கி கம்பீரமாக நகர்ந்து கொண்டு செல்வதற்கான நிலையை அடைவதற்கான ஓர் உலக தரத்திலான பிரயாண சேரிடமாக உள்ளது. இந்நாட்டில்

தற்போது நிலவிக் கொண்டிருக்கும் சமாதானத்திற்கும் உறுதி நிலைக்குமான காலநிலையானது இந்த அதிகரித்த பொருளாதார செயற்பாட்டுக்கான முக்கியமானதொரு நிலையாக உள்ளது.

இலங்கையானது சகல நாடுகளுடனும் அணிசேராமை மற்றும் நட்புறவு கோட்பாடுகளினால் வழிகாட்டப்பட்ட நிலையில் உலக அரங்கில் வளமான உயிர்த்துடிப்புள்ள வெளிநாட்டுக் கொள்கையையும் ஆரோக்கியமான உறவுகளையும் தொடர்ந்து வைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கின்றது. நாம் ஒரே சீராக அநேக நாடுகளுடன் எமது இராசதந்திரத் தொடர்புகளை விரிவாக்கிக் கொண்டும் உலகில் வெவ்வேறு பாகங்களில் புதிய இராசதந்திர தூதரகங்களை திறந்துகொண்டும் இருப்பதுடன் நாடுகளின் சர்வதேச சமூகத்துடன் எமது நட்புறவுத் தொடர்புகளையும் அதிகரித்துக்கொண்டிருக்கின்றோம். சர்வதேச அரங்கில் இலங்கையானது 2013 ஆம் ஆண்டு நவம்பர் மாதத்தில் இலங்கையானது பொதுநலவாய நாடுகளின் அரசாங்கங்களின் தலைவர்களின் 23 ஆவது கூட்டத்தை நடாத்தி விருந்தோம்பிபுள்ளதுடன் அடுத்த இரண்டு ஆண்டுகளுக்கும் பொதுநலவாய நாடுகள் அமைப்பின் தலைவராக சேவையாற்றும். இது இலங்கையில் இடம்பெற்றுக்கொண்டிருக்கும் பாரிய முன்னேற்றத்தையும், முன்னர் எப்பொழுதும் இல்லாத அளவிலான மோதலுக்குப் பிற்பட்ட அபிவிருத்திகளையும் உலகத் தலைவர்கள் பார்த்து அறிந்து கொள்வதற்கான ஒரு பெரிய வாய்ப்பாக உள்ளது.

இச்சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் இந்நாட்டின் பொருளாதார அபிவிருத்திக்கும் சமூக அபிவிருத்திக்கும் புலம் பெயர்ந்த இலங்கையர்கள் சமூகத்தினால் தொடர்ந்தும் வழங்கப்பட்ட பங்களிப்பிற்குமாக நான் எனது நன்றியைத் தெரிவிக்கின்றேன். எமது தேசிய தினமாகிய இத்தினத்தில் எமது நாட்டை சிறந்த எதிர்காலத்திற்கு இட்டுச் செல்வதன் பொருட்டு நாம் பின்னர் எதிர்நோக்கவுள்ள சவால்களில் எமது தாய் நாட்டிற்கு ஆதரவு வழங்குவதற்கான எமது பொறுப்பைக் கூட்டாக விரிவாக்குவதற்கு நாம் மீள் அப்பணிப்பீட்டின் செயற்படுவோமாக.


பேராசிரியா ஜி.எஸ்.பரிஸ
வெளிவிவகார அமைச்சர்
இலங்கை சோசலிசக் குடியரசு



Prof. G. L. Peiris M. P.
Minister of External Affairs
Sri Lanka

The National Day Message: Hon. Minister of External Affairs

The anniversary of the 66th Independence Day of Sri Lanka is an opportune moment for us to reflect with a sense of gratification the many accomplishments the country has achieved within a brief span of time.

As a country, we are proud of the significant progress that has been made since the defeat of terrorism four years ago and people are enjoying peace in a united Sri Lanka. During the past several years, an extraordinary development drive has been taken by Government. Numerous mega development programmes are being implemented with the construction of harbors, airports and roads, bringing economic development to rural areas and connecting them to the larger economic development of the country. The Government is committed to ensure that the opportunities gained by society as a result of these developments are available to all communities, across the country, for the upliftment and betterment of their lives.

In the Northern Province, free elections have been held after many years; bringing communities into the political process for the first time; Internally Displaced persons have been able to return to their homes and been reunited with their families; and fishing, agriculture, and a multitude of other industries have been reinvigorated to provide livelihood opportunities to people.

The National Action Plan of the recommendations of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission are being implemented steadily and substantial resources are being allocated to ensure its objectives. A National policy is underway to transform the country into a trilingual society.

The policy framework of the Government, "*Mahinda Chinthana: The Vision for future*", is steadfast in guiding our development efforts and harnessing the tremendous potential of Sri Lanka, and is helping revolutionize the country to emerge as a regional hub on aviation, commerce, maritime and knowledge. With these developments, increasing linkages and strong growth; Sri Lanka is a world class travel destination poised to move towards being an upper middle income country. The climate of peace and stability which is now prevailing in the country is an essential condition for this enhanced economic activity.

Sri Lanka continues to have a strong vibrant foreign policy and healthy relations in the global arena, guided by principles of non-alignment and friendship with all. We are steadily expanding our diplomatic relations with a large number of countries and opening new diplomatic missions in different parts of the globe; deepening our ties of friendship amongst the international community of nations. On the international stage, Sri Lanka hosted the 23rd Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in November 2013 and will serve as the Chair in Office of the Commonwealth for the next two years. This significant event was a great opportunity for world leaders to see the tremendous progress and unprecedented post-conflict developments taking place in Sri Lanka.

At this time, I express my gratitude to the expatriate Sri Lankan community that have continued to contribute towards the economic and social development of the country. On the occasion of our National Day, let us rededicate ourselves to collectively intensify our commitment towards supporting the motherland in our challenges ahead, in order to lead the country towards a brighter future.


Prof. G. L. Peiris
Minister of External Affairs
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

04th February 2014

Message on the occasion of the 66th Anniversary of Independence of Sri Lanka
Admiral Thisarra Samarasinghe RSP VSV USP ndc psc
High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in Australia

Today, we celebrate the 66th anniversary of independence and the National Day of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. On this auspicious day, I have great pleasure in extending my heartiest greetings and best wishes not only to those with Sri Lankan roots but also to all of you who call Australia your home and to the Government of Australia

On the 04 of February 1948, Sri Lanka attained its independence from the British rule of 150 years and celebrates every year with pride and honour based on our resplendent historical, multi religious and diverse cultural heritage. Sri Lanka has now entered an era of peace and stands undivided, under one flag, committed to show the solidarity and unity as a noble nation. Our independence and honourable peace since May 2009 was achieved through many sacrifices of our leaders as well as our brave armed forces that were determined to unite the country as a one nation. Therefore, let us pay our respectful homage in remembrance of all those who dedicated their invaluable lives for the cause of independence and peace.

Sri Lanka is a nation with a great and ancient civilization. Our democracy is one of the oldest, stable and most vibrant in South Asia and which continues parliamentary democracy, with an 83 years old history. We are characterized by multi- ethnic, multi- religious and multi-cultural communities and our vibrant multi-party system accommodates ethnic and religious diversities. Sri Lanka's Foreign Policy has been guided by non- alignment. Therefore, Sri Lanka enjoys close and friendly relations with all Member States of the United Nations. Besides, Sri Lanka proudly and successfully hosted the 23rd Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in November 2013. It was the first ever multilateral summit of this magnitude that was held in our country since the Non-Aligned Conference held in 1976. It is also appropriate to mention that Sri Lanka will host the World Conference on Youth in collaboration with the UN in May 2014, which will be the first in Asia.

Sri Lanka is perhaps among the very few countries in the world, which has been offering free education from Grade one to University level and providing free text books, meals, uniform material and scholarships to needy students and undergraduates. This gives ample opportunity for the children to pursue their education irrespective of their social or economic background. Therefore, the goal of universal primary education will be easily achieved by 2015. Our literacy rate is 98%. Further, Sri Lanka's accomplishments in healthcare include the infant mortality rate of 9.4 per 1000 live births, highlighted by UNICEF as a success story.

Sri Lanka has now entered into a new era of peace and prosperity under the visionary leadership of His Excellency Mahina Rajapaksa. Three decades of brutal terrorism is now a closed chapter in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka now continues to improve its Human Development Indicators. Our GDP growth has recorded at estimated 7.2 percent in 2013, in line with the "Mahinda Chintana Vision for the Future", the Government's ten year Horizontal Development Framework. The per capita income has been increased from US\$ 1,062 in 2004 to US\$ 2,923 in 2012. Inflation declined to 6.7 percent and unemployment reduced to 4 per cent in 2012. Absolute poverty has steadily declined to 6.4 percent in 2013 from 15.2 percent in 2006. The aim of the Government is to achieve poverty free middle income level and to go beyond Millennium Development Goals by 2016.

Today our country is stable and experiencing economic revival, in an environment of peace and harmony. The judicious application of 5Rs, namely Rehabilitation, Reconstruction, Resettlement, Reintegration and Reconciliation by the government has enabled the rapid transformation from the pre- conflict emergency phase to a development- oriented phase in order to transform Sri Lanka into a strategically important economic centre of the world.

The progress of our home-grown development strategy ensures the economic and social benefits reach every strata of society and improves the livelihoods strives for high economic growth, with equitable distributions of its benefits, amongst all our people in Sri Lanka.

The strategic geographical location of Sri Lanka, the political, economic and social stability, business friendly culture and the constitutional frame inspire and offer confidence to the investors. Sri Lanka has now become one of the most popular destinations for competitive investments in the services sector especially with regard to Commercial, Knowledge, Maritime, Energy & Aviation with the concept of five hubs referred in Sri Lanka's Policy document "Mahinda Chinthana".

The tourism industry has become a major component in bringing about the economic boom in the post-conflict Sri Lanka. The vision of Sri Lanka is to attract 2.5 million tourists annually, by the year 2016.

The deeply rooted relations we enjoy today between Sri Lanka and Australia were established way back as 1947. However, in the post- independence era, it was further strengthened by the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the both countries in 1949 and has since shared extensive bilateral relations over six decades. The recent visits of Hon. Prof. G.L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs and Hon. Namal Rajapaksa MP to Australia and the supportive stance with conviction taken by Hon. Tony Abbott, Prime Minister of Australia and Hon. Julie Bishop, Minister of Foreign Affairs at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings in Sri Lanka in November 2013 are clear evidence of strengthened bilateral relationship and engagement between our two countries. I thank the government of Australia for the support displayed at the CHOGM and for the improved relationship.

The establishment of the new Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Victoria is another milestone in the growing political, diplomatic, trade and academic relations between Sri Lanka and Australia.

Trade, investment, tourism, education, people – to – people contacts, cricket are the some of the areas which further promotes our bilateral relations. The development assistance and education assistance offered by Australia are noteworthy and invaluable. The famous Colombo Plan and the new Colombo Plan of the new Australian Government offers invaluable services to our country, especially in the field of education bringing both communities closer.

Australia is an important trading partner for Sri Lanka both as a significant market for exports and supply of raw material and intermediate goods. There has been a significant increase in the total trade turnover between the two countries over the past few years and the highest two way trade has been recorded in 2011 with US\$ 400 million. Sri Lanka's exports to Australia have been increased to US\$ 134.34 million in 2012, from the level of US\$ 47.0 million in

2002 registering 285% increase in ten years. The confidence displayed by Australian investors in the recent times is encouraging and promotes Sri Lanka positively.

In the recent past Sri Lanka and Australia have been participating at numerous multinational and multi-agency forums in the countries of each other, reflecting ever improving international engagement between the two nations.

I am proud to mention that Australians with Sri Lankan origins have been contributing to the development of Australia in numerous ways for over six decades whilst reaping the best benefits provided by Australia.

As we celebrate the 66th Anniversary of Independence of Sri Lanka, I thank Consul General of NSW, Consul General of Victoria, Honorary Consuls of Perth, Brisbane and Adelaide and the Sri Lankan community residing in Australia for their invaluable assistance which they have extended for many years. I invite the Sri Lankan community here to continue to support our Mother Lanka. The peace now enjoyed in Sri Lanka is a great opportunity for all to contribute towards the development of Sri Lanka. Therefore, I appeal in earnest, to all Sri Lankans living in Australia to join hands in harmony and to contribute your invaluable knowledge and thoughts to make Sri Lanka a safe, secure and a prosperous nation. National unity is the key to harmonious and sustainable development of Sri Lanka. Therefore, your total dedication, devotion, determination and commitment to promote and develop our Mother Lanka as true Ambassadors are of vital importance to promote national prosperity with dignity and strength whilst raising the Sri Lanka-Australia relationship to greater heights.

May the longstanding deep friendship between Sri Lanka and Australia grow from strength to strength.