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Sinhala Jathika Peramuna

සම්බන්ධීකරණ කාර්යාලය, 14/5A, ධර්මපාල මාවත, පොල්අත්තපිටියල කුරුණෑගල.

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PRESS STATEMENT

SJP's RESPONSE TO THE NORTHERN PROVINCIAL COUNCILS' RESOLUTION ON TWO STATE FEDERAL SOLUTION

It has been reported in the media on 23rd April 2016 that the Northern Provincial Council members have adopted a resolution proposing the Government of Sri Lanka to establish two Federal States within the territory of Sri Lanka based on two languages, namely the Tamil and the Sinhala. A Tamil State comprising both the Northern and the Eastern provinces and a Sinhala state comprising the rest of the country in the southern area.

We, the members of Sinhala Jathika Peramuna (SJP) totally reject the entire concept due to the following historical reasons.

SINHALADEEPA

The country named, as Sri Lanka in 1972 was known before 1815 as Sinhaladeepa since 437 BCE, a Sinhala Nation State comprising the entire Island. Its indigenous inhabitants were and are the Sinhala people with a civilizational history of thousands of years.

The Sinhala people never had a foreign policy of invading other countries and subjugating its natives and plundering their resources. Hence, the indigenous Sinhala people lived in harmony with other nations trading with them in a peaceful manner adopting the international civilized norms adopted by a large number of civilized countries since ancient times.

However, few countries in the world adopted the policy of invading other countries through military invasions and subjecting its natives to unimaginable suffering, destroying their heritage and plundering their resources.

During the history of Sinhaladeepa spanning around 2300 years, there have been seven major invasions and occupations from India and majority were from south India.

Also, there have been three Europeans invasions starting from 1505 and up to 1815, in which two invasions partly occupied the Sinhaladeepa and the other fully occupied the entire country causing great destruction to the Sinhala Nation state. Much of the indigenous population was wiped out through genocide, demographic change due to imported south Indian labourers & allowing the south Indians to encroach to Sinhaladeepa freely without the consent of the indigenous Sinhala people in general. The indigenous governmental system, the agriculture, the ancient knowledge, the cultural practices, the highland forests were destroyed by the European invaders due to their greed for wealth & power.

The colonists during their occupation between 1815 - 1948 helped the local collaborators (generally known as Kalusuddhas) and their families to turn themselves into politically influential families that would one day carry the their legacy unchanged.

Further, the colonists gave this country a new name & a governmental system of divide a rule and an electoral system in which the indigenous Sinhala people were made to fight among themselves as well as with the alien minorities. That system in turn created a political party based clan to rule the country in the name of democratic politics, which is nothing, but the politics of self-interests either for prestige (then) or for material wealth (now). It is basically a political party system without due constitutional safeguards to protect the historical rights of the indigenous Sinhala people.

When the said Sinhala Kalusuddhas took over the governmental power from the white colonial masters through a bogus independence struggle in 1948, they never had a political plan of action or vision to re - instate the historical, civil, political and economic rights of the indigenous Sinhala people lost or degraded due to the Indian invasions since the 13th century and due to the three European invasions and occupations from 1505. The Kalusuddhas were very happy with the political, administrative system and the policy of divide & rule (then Ceylonese and now Sri Lankan) that the colonial masters established here for the maintenance of their empire. There was no real independence struggle at all but a show of bogus struggle (for the consumption of the Sinhala public) by getting arrested in the morning and having parties in the evening at the Governor general's residence.

The Sinhala Kalusuddhas were even too happy when the Lord Solbury who said to have drafted the first constitution for this country - the Order In Council at Arcadia Mansion in Bandarawela. The owner of the mansion was said to be the present Prime Minister's uncle, D.R Wijewardane. He said to be the then leader of Sinhala Kalusuddha family clan. Ranil Wickramasinghe can be regarded as the present leader of the Kalusuddhas.

The following excerpt from the Order in Council constitution clearly shows the true nature of the independence struggle of Ceylon.

"His Majesty's Government are in *sympathy* with the desire of the people of Ceylon to advance towards Dominion Status and they are anxious to cooperate with them to that end."

The Sinhala political leaders from 1948, while taking all steps to achieve and maintain their political power, they unwittingly and partially addressed some grievances of the Sinhala people. However, those steps were totally inadequate to arrive at a lasting political solution to the Sinhala national problem kept submerged by the Kalusuddha politics since 1948. They highlighted the minority grievances that were without any foundation to get the minority votes to form governments every 5 or 6 years.

The following positive steps could be highlighted.

- (1). The Ceylon Government's decision to disenfranchise the south Indians residing in plantation areas in 1949 was a small positive step.
- (2). Resettlement of Sinhala people in their historical homeland land especially in the eastern province were a commendable state policy.
- (3). Nehru Kothalawala Pact - the government of India clearly admitted that there are illegal migrations taking place to Ceylon from south India and the need to address the issue.
- (4). Sinhala only Language policy was a big positive step in 1956. But later, the Sinhala political leaders agreeing with Tamil federalists to grant Tamil language the national language status down graded that positive step.
- (5). Srimala - Shastriya Pact should have been for full repatriation of the south Indians. Another loss opportunity to regain the Sinhala land rights lost in 1833 due to the Peasantry Act.
- (6). The Constitution of 1972 - The only positive step was the removal of the much-dreaded Article 29(2) in which the Sinhala people were made political prisoners of the alien minorities. However, the bad aspect of the constitutional writing was that the task was entrusted to the intellectuals with a leftist political stand.

ATTACKS & RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE INDIGENOUS SINHALA PEOPLE

The first attack on the Sinhala people in the Northern province was carried out by the Tamil mob in 1958 when the then government introduced a Sinhala letter 'SRI' to motor vehicle number plates, which was in English earlier. SRI or SHRI is a letter that is even in the Hindu alphabet. The Tamil extremists started attacking the Sinhala population especially in the Jaffna peninsula initiating island wide riots. They even set on fire to Naga Viharaya in the center of Jaffna town, injuring the chief priest badly. Naga Viharaya is a part of two temples that has a history of 2600 years; hence a temple existed long before any Tamil set foot on Sinhaladeepa. Thus, the descendents of Tamil invaders, illegal migrants and the encroachers with a mere few hundred years of living here were responsible for the first attack upon the indigenous Sinhala people on the 20th century. Thereafter, every Sinhala Tamil riots were the result of some racial provocation against the Sinhala population by the Tamil extremists including the riots in July 1983. Every time there were a riot between the Sinhala nationals & the alien Tamils, the media only reported the riots against the Tamils but not the Tamils attacking the Sinhala people in the North and in the East.

The Sinhala population according to the government census in 1971 was 20402 and that number was down to 5648 in 1981 census and 27 according to the 2007 census. The question now arises as to why the Sinhala people started leaving the Jaffna district well before any serious war situation started before 1983? After 1972 there was a carefully planned program by the Tamil extremists including the Tamil government officers to create the conditions in which the Sinhala people had difficulty of getting things done. It was nothing but racial discrimination by the most Tamil government officers and by all the Tamil extremists.

Prabakaren created his Tamil New Tiger Movement on May 22nd, the day in which the 1972 Republican constitution came into force, Prabakaren and his future terrorists started harassing the Sinhala students studying at the Sinhala Maha Vidyalaya in Jaffna. The Tamil extremists of Prabakaren and other groups hoisted black flags all over Jaffna and started attacking the Sinhala population. It was ordinary peaceful Tamils that came to rescue the Sinhala student & the people by giving them cover in their homes until dawn.

The racial discrimination against the Sinhala population was widespread even before 1972 in almost every Governmental sector in which the Tamils were in full control. Also Sinhala people were treated like second-class citizens through out the British colonial era and even thereafter and even now. The Tamil government officers stealthily and even openly help their own people when executing duties. Hence the Sinhala people suffered racial discrimination ever since the British colonists trained and gave the Tamils high positions in the government sector. The Sinhala people suffered in silence. The situation is worse at present in which Tamils have become privilege community while any Sinhala person who voice on behalf of the Sinhala grievances are treated as racists.

1983 riots were a god (UNP Government) given gift to the Tamil extremists to infuse an eternal guilt on the Sinhala people including the Sri Lankan state government with the majority Sinhala politicians. Thereafter, the Tamil terrorist organizations especially the LTTE carried out pre mediated genocidal terrorist attacks on Sinhala pilgrims, villages, and urban civilians for a period of about 26 years but the strange thing is that the Tamils in Colombo continue to vote for Ranil Wickramasinghe, who too was a minister in 1983 in the then government when the riots were going on and he did nothing to stop it. It is even stranger that about 80% of Tamils in the North an East voted for General Sarath Fonseka. Therefore, if one understands how the separatist Tamil mentality works, then it would be clear that to achieve their Tamil Eelam they would not hesitate to compromise anything including the collective self-respect, honour and dignity of the Tamil people in this country.

Therefore, it is about time that the Sinhala people, overcome this eternal guilt and start fighting for their historical rights and voice against the racial discrimination that they suffer from the Tamil minority.

THE POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE SINHALA NATIONAL PROBLEM

The above description clearly shows that there has been centuries of injustice to the indigenous Sinhala people by both the Tamils and the Europeans invaders and that issue has not so far been addressed through political means and now it is the time to address it, as there is a constitutional reforms process is taking place.

RECONCILIATION

The indigenous Sinhala people are always ready to forget the past and live peacefully with the descendents of the south Indian & the European invaders, but the said descendents in their own accord must take the following meaningful steps to reconcile with the indigenous Sinhala people. For that, the political representatives of the Tamils, namely the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) and other Tamil political parties and organizations should collectively,

1. Tender a full apology for their past & recent genocidal invasions on Sinhaladeepa.
2. Accept the fact that this land is the land of the Sinhala people.
3. A firm pledge of abandoning any claims as misconceived in so called Thimpu claims that in Sinhaladeepa,
 - (a). Tamils are a nation.
 - (b). Tamils have an identifiable homeland within the territory of Sinhaladeepa.
 - (c). Tamil have the right of self-determination.
4. A firm pledge to work for the progress of the Sinhala nation as a whole and not to work for the progress of Tamil community at the expense of the national progress.
5. Learn the Sinhala Language and adopt the mainstream cultural practices in public.

THE BASIS FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION

The Government of Sri Lanka must take the following basic steps to rectify the errors made in the 1972 & 1978 constitutions.

1. The name of the country must be changed from Sri Lanka to Sinhaladeepa.
2. The country's Jathikathvaya (base nationality) must be the Sinhala nationality.
3. The Kandyan Sinha Flag of 1815 must be the National flag of Sinhaladeepa.
4. Complete removal of the 13th amendment to the constitution and to do away with the concept of any form of devolution of political powers instead adopt the concept of devolution of administrative powers.
5. Grant Mahanakayes of the four chapters constitutional powers to reject any legislative Bill or Government agreement that may deem to be detrimental to the interests of the indigenous Sinhala people.

Further, the governmental practices of the Kandyan Kingdom of 1815 should be reintroduced as a much as possible and the correct Sinhala history should be introduced to the school curriculum.

Therefore, we urge all the member of the Northern Provincial Council (NPC) to abandon its called for two state solutions based on language and instead to accept the historical fact that they live in the land belongs to the Sinhala people. If the NPC accepts our proposals then, there will be a political solution in which the Tamils who have acquired the citizenship during the colonial period could find their due place here or else it would be better that those who are not willing to accept the fact that this is the land of the Sinhala people consider leaving back to their homeland in South India.

Jayantha Liyanage
General Secretary,
Sinhala Jathika Peramuna,
28.04.2016