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SRI LANKA: THE WAY FORWARD | MAY 2013

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## PRESIDENT MAHINDA RAJAPAKSA'S ADDRESS AT THE PRESENTATION OF THE SIXTY THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA



## PEOPLE'S BANK AND PEOPLE'S LEASING OPENED IN VILGAMUWA



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## PRESIDENT MAHINDA RAJAPAKSA'S ADDRESS AT THE PRESENTATION OF THE SIXTY THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA



*Ajith Nivard Cabraal, Governor of Central Bank presenting the Annual Report to the President while Minister Basil Rajapaksa, Lalith Weerasinghe, Secretary to the President and Dr P. B. Jayasundara, Secretary to the Ministry of Finance look on*

The sixty third Annual Report of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka was presented today. The complete economic activity of the country and the economic direction that the country is moving along is clearly and analytically presented by the Central Bank Annual Report.

"It is a pleasure to present this Annual Report for the seventh time as Minister of Finance. The Government thanks the Central Bank of Sri Lanka which is the Bank and Advisor of the Government.

We have achieved an exceptional economic progression amidst numerous obstacles...

Last year Sri Lanka's economy developed at a commendable rate of 6.4%. It was mentioned today that for the fourth year inflation has been maintained to a single digit without a break. One might feel that compared to the two previous years where an 8% economic development speed was recorded, whether this year is satisfactory enough.

However, this economic gain has been achieved through a period of time that we faced huge obstacles internationally and internally. The negative implications of the global financial crisis are still visible. The world economy has not been normalised yet. Even the most powerful countries in the world are moving forward at a very slow economic pace.

We had to purchase fuel at a high cost from Iran due to the sanctions that were

imposed on Iran. When one country is being attacked, small countries like us also get hit. We were accused of violating human rights by the international community. We have to be sensitive about issues like that. It would not be an exaggeration to say that within that kind of environment, this is an exceptional economic achievement.

We did not come into power by giving false promises and political tricks. You will all remember when we came into power, the uncertainty in political, social and economic situations. The whole country was swallowed up by terrorism. The whole country was ablaze with a 30 year war that could not be contained. What is the extent of damage that the serious implications of terrorism caused to lives, property and economic downturn?

I need not remind you of that in this same Central Bank ground which was subjected to terrorist attack. I took over the country in a period where there was no proper leadership, no direction and the country was subjected to anarchism.

We did not come into power by giving false promises or using political tricks.

We showed clearly and far sightedly through Mahinda Chinthana the path that we were going to follow.

You can see the magical transformation in the North and East

today through your own eyes. We did not discard our political agendas after we won the election. We were able to totally eradicate terrorism from the country in less than four years because we followed the Mahinda Chinthana exactly as we promised. As soon as the war ended we immediately started to re-settle the people.

You are aware that the areas that were affected by war, are being integrated into the country's economy. We commenced large scale development projects such as Uthuru Wasanthaya and Negenahira Navodaya to do that. We did not stop there. We rehabilitated those who engaged in terrorist activities and sent them back into society. We made them rehabilitated through society itself. We recruited them into the Forces and the Police Department. Everyone knows that the benefits are reaping from those projects in the North and East that were allocated a humungous sum of 214 billion Rupees.

It is evident from the 10% contribution from those two areas into the Gross National Product. You can now see with your own eyes, the transformations happening in the North and East, which were areas that were restricted to us for years.

Even though we focused on the North and East after the war, we did not forgo the development of the other areas of the country. We initiated huge development projects. These projects were initiated so that all sections in society would be able





Invitees at the event



President addressing the gathering



Invitees at the event



President speaking to some of the dignitaries

to gain benefits from them. There were many obstacles that came along. Coal Power Plants, Hydro Power Plants, Irrigation and Road construction work are being finalized now. Huge development projects such as Mattala International Airport, Hambantota Port and the Southern Highway were handed over to the people. Remote and far off places are being developed. Colombo port and the Colombo - Katunayake highway will soon be handed over to the people. Some can't see these developments. Even if they see them, they pretend that they didn't. Agriculture, fisheries industry, small and medium scale industries and people's main needs such as housing, drinking water, electricity, health, schooling and education and banking services are being invested in heavily and many ongoing projects are currently happening.

We are doing all this to increase the wealth of the country.

Money should be invested to develop a country. We all know that development projects cannot be created from the income generated. We obtain loans for those. Some are trying to depict that it is a waste. It is clear from the Central Bank Report today how much was taken as loans then and how much is taken now and about the individual income, about the country's income. We are doing all this to increase the value of the country. When new ports, new airports and highways are being built, the value of

that country increases daily. We are not taking loans to eat. We have received great wealth because of these. We should focus on those. We built a new port in Hambantota. A new international airport for Mattala. This is a journey forward for us and not backwards.

To develop as a country, the village should be closer to the city.

Last year also when I came to present the Central Bank Report, I mentioned that the village should be closer to the city for a country to develop. That can only happen when transport, roads and electricity supply develops to a substantial amount. We created Maga Neguma, Gama Neguma, Gamata Obina Viyapara, The Karmanthashala Naveekarana Sahanadara Wedasatahana, Waga Rakshana Krama, and Dheewara Indana Sahana Wedapiliwela. The first phase of the Divi Neguma national project under the theme "Isurumath Nivahanak - Asirimath Maubimak" was initiated to create one million home incomes.

I went to the Upatissa Gammanaya where the first village was created in Sri Lanka. All the home gardens in that village have planted vegetables. There are no parapet walls. They are open, wide. When I asked the children of the village what they needed, they said they want carpeted roads. Even children in such remote areas know how the country is being developed. They have an idea about

their surroundings and the development of the country. While creating an economic and social surrounding for the children in the villages, we did not forget the city.

We built the city. Built cleanliness. We brought the beauty of the village to the city. Those who look around can see that. When they go to the Parliament Grounds or Independence Square, people can see that. That is what should happen. We have to work towards creating common transportation systems, new transportation systems and clean roads. The Colombo that you see today is not the Colombo that you saw then. Well planned cities, these are not new to us. Today you are seeing the same concepts used in the Anuradhapura and the Polonnaruwa period with a new face.

A country's economy is built with political stability.

We have diversified the programme of development from Colombo to all major towns across the Country. In this situation, we have to think positively. I believe that we can do anything. We have to change the economy to suit this country. A country's economy will grow along always with economic stability.

I am happy to receive the Report in this instance and also happy to have presented the Report to everyone for their knowledge including children.

I invite you all to contribute to develop this country and think positively about this country and wish all of you a bright future"



# PEOPLE'S BANK AND PEOPLE'S LEASING OPENED IN VILGAMUWA

Offering internet banking facilities and wide spread leasing facilities, the latest branch of the Vilgamuwa People's Bank and People's Leasing was declared open by President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Minister Bandula Gunawardane, Sarath Ekanayake, Chief Minister of Central Province, Deputy Minister Nandimithra Ekanayake, Lakshman Vasantha Perera, MP, Gamini Senarath, Chairman of People's Bank and People's Leasing, N Vasantha Kumara, General Manager, D P Kumara, General Manager People's Leasing and other Senior Officials were present at the occasion.



*Opening the building complex of the People's Bank in Vilgamuwa*



*President declaring open the Vilgamuwa People's Bank branch*



*President lighting the traditional oil lamp while Gamini Senarath, Chairman looks on*



*A memento given to the President by Gamini Senarath, Chairman of People's Bank*



*The first deposit for the bank was accepted by the President*



*People's Leasing branch being opened by the President and the first loan being given to the first customer to purchase a bus*



*The long standing and front row customers of the bank receiving mementos from the President*



# NEW BUILDING FOR VILGAMUWA NAMINIOYA SECONDARY SCHOOL



President arriving at the Vilgamuwa Naminioya Secondary School



President declaring open the new school building



President talking to students of the school



The people of the district receiving loan facilities from the President



1000 farmers in the district received loan facilities from People's Bank to obtain farming utensils



The people of the district receiving loan facilities from the President



President addressing the gathering



# PRESIDENT VISITS BATTICALOA AND AMPARA

The Ranbima title deeds were handed over to the owners in Ampara by President Mahinda Rajapaksa which went parallel to the Deyata Kirula Exhibition.

The President said that another vision is being realized from the Mahinda Chinthana. According to the Mahinda Chinthana, 10,000 farming families would be granted land.

The President said he believes that when a man owns a piece of land, that man is empowered. The Government has also focused on developing the living standards of the people of the East. He said that the villages have been brought closer to the city through carpeted roads. The villages will also be provided with drinking water

infrastructure and agriculture. The President requested the parents to send their children to school and give them a good education to build a strong nation. He requested them not to make children do housework or fieldwork but do the rightful thing by giving them a sound education. That is our obligation, he said. The President said that to create peace and harmony in a country, there should be an educated nation.

The President also mentioned that this happened to Buddhist religious leaders as well as Muslims in the Kanthakudi Mosque. He wished that this type of catastrophe should not befall anyone in future and wished that the Maha Sangha

for the welfare of the public and do their duty. He said that the Government officers should wipe away the tears of those people who come to them with grievances just as they would wipe away the tears of their parents. The President said that by talking to some of the people of the area, he understood that they have many difficulties such as transport problems, lack of clean drinking water and lack of water for irrigation of their crops and so on. It is important to look into those and bring solutions.

President Rajapaksa advised the appointees to keep going forward, to sit for exams, join the civil service, join the administrative service, sit for competitive



*Ranbima title deeds being handed over by President*



and electricity through giant projects we have inaugurated, said the President.

President Rajapaksa also extended his good wishes to the people and said that through Divi Neguma the Government is taking steps to protect their heritage and lives and that the President is confident that everyone will work together without any religious or racial disharmonies.

The President also participated in the Aranthalawa commemoration of the Maha Sangha who were massacred by ruthless LTTE terrorists.

He said that this country and Buddhism should be protected for future generations and that the people of the country has gone through a horrendous 30 years that has seen some of the most ruthless and cruel killings in the world.

The President also said that these villages will be developed with

who faced this tragedy will achieve Nirvana.

President Rajapaksa also spoke at the ceremony which granted permanent Government appointments to graduates who were training in the Government sector.

Here, the President mentioned that the appointees have a responsibility to serve the area where they will work with dedication without any discrimination of ethnic differences.

The President said that the Government encouraged those officials to learn both Sinhalese and Tamil as they need to interact with people who spoke their own language most of the time.

He said that Government service is considered as God's service and we have to regard it as such. He said that through the appointments the primary task is to work

exams and to heighten their knowledge. While on tour of the area, President Mahinda Rajapaksa declared open the new Kallady Bridge in Batticaloa, built parallel to the old bridge which connects the south and the east of the country.

Consisting of two lanes with two bicycle tracks and 289 meters long and 15 meters wide, the bridge is constructed through Colombo, Rathnapura, Beragala and across Siyambalanduwa to Batticaloa on the A4 route. Funding for this bridge was done by JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) and the Ministry of Ports and Highways.

The People's Bank which opened and operated in a rented house in Ampara was relocated to a new four storey building with modern conveniences and was also declared open by President Mahinda Rajapaksa.





*Trainee graduates being given permanent Government appointments*

Under the Deyata Kirula development programme in the East the new People's Bank joins the banking sector as the head office in the Ampara district with its ultra modern auditorium and as the small and medium lending centre.

The President also opened the new two storey Physical and Children's unit of the Ampara hospital.

Appreciation tokens were also presented by the President to employees in different sectors of the hospital. Later the President visited the resident patients of

the hospital. The President also engaged in the distribution of ambulances under the programme by the Health Ministry to distribute 250 ambulances throughout hospitals in the island. A new access way to Ampara-Pothuvil Muhudu Maha Viharaya was also declared open by President Mahinda Rajapaksa. The Maha Sangha led by Ven Ellawala Medananda Thero, Ven Dr Thumbulle Seelakkanda Nayaka Thero, Mohan Wijewickrama, Governor of the Eastern Province, P Dayaratne, Senior Minister,

Minister Ranjith Siyambalapatiya, Nirmala Kothalawala, Project Minister, Deputy Ministers Geethanjana Gunawardane, Sarath Gunarathne, Gamini Senarath, Chief of Staff of the President and M K B Dissanayake, Secretary to the Ministry of Buddha Sasana were present at the occasion. While on the tour, the President also called on the Buddhagala Aranya in Ampara and inquired after the well-being of Ven Kalutara Dhammananda Thero, Chief Prelate of Budhdangala Senasana.



*President declaring open the Kallady bridge*



*President visiting a patient at the hospital in Ampara*



*President visiting Arantalawa*



*President visited Ven Indigaselle Pagnasara Thero, Chief Incumbent of the Magul Maha Viharaya*



## Korea Sri Lanka friendship hospital opens in Matara



The Korea Sri Lanka friendship hospital in Matara, which symbolizes a giant step towards the development of the health sector in the Southern Province, was declared open by President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Ministers Mathreepala Sirisena, Dullas Alahapperuma, Mahinda Yapa Abeywardane, Lakshman Yapa Abeywardane, Chandrasiri Gajadeera, Shan Vijayalal de Silva, Chief Minister of the Southern Province, Deputy Ministers Lalith Dissanayake, Vijaya Dahanayake, MPs Hemal Gunasekera, Sanath Jayasuriya, and Voi Jong Moon, Ambassador of Korea and Dr Nihal Jayatilake, Secretary to the Ministry of Health were also present at the occasion.

*President opening the Korea Sri Lanka friendship hospital*

## President Meets Diplomatic Heads of Islamic Countries



*President and Diplomatic Heads of Islamic countries*

Fifteen diplomatic heads of Islamic countries, resident in Sri Lanka, met with President Mahinda Rajapaksa at Temple Trees

to discuss various matters of mutual interest pertaining to both domestic and international arenas. The President assured the delegation,

that the Government will not tolerate anyone perpetrating acts to create communal or religious disharmony. If anyone has proof and evidence of such incidents, the President said, they should hand over that information, and action would be taken promptly.

Diplomatic heads from the following countries were present at the meeting: Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq, Egypt, Indonesia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Maldives, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

Prof G L Peiris, Minister of External Affairs, Rauff Hakeem, Minister of Justice, Anura Priyadarshana Yapa, Minister of Petroleum Industries, Parliamentarian A H M Azwer, Lalith Weeratunga, Secretary to the President and Karunatilake Amunugama, Secretary to the Ministry of External Affairs were also present during the discussion.



## National Hospital's third Medical ward complex opened

The newly built third Medical ward complex of the National Hospital which was built at a cost of 602 million Rupees was opened by President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

*President declaring open the new hospital complex*



## Sri Lankan Americans meet President



*President in discussion with Sri Lankan expatriates in America*

**P**resident Mahinda Rajapaksa stated that he expected all Sri Lankans living overseas to gather together in showing their support to win obstacles faced by the country. The American expatriates thanked

the President for putting the country on a fast track to development after a 30 year terrorist war.

Ministers Maithreepala Sirisena, Dullas Alahapperuma, Susil Premajayantha,

District Minister Udaya Gammanpila, Lalith Weeratunga, Secretary to the President and Jaliya Wickramasuriya, Sri Lankan Ambassador to the USA were some of those present at the occasion.

## Padeniya - Anuradhapura Road declared open



**M**aking the Mahinda Chinthana a reality, the Padeniya - Anuradhapura road which connects the North and South and built at a cost of 7000 million Rupees under the direction of the Ministry of Ports and Highways and the Road Development Authority, was declared open by President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Ministers and MPs, Jong Moon Choi, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea and other Government Officials were present at the occasion.

*President declaring open the Padeniya - Anuradhapura road*

## Progress review meeting of Ministry of Lands and Land Development



*President speaking to Officials of the Ministry of Lands and Land Development*

**T**he Progress review meeting of Ministry of Lands and Land Development 2013-2015 was held at the Ministry under the direction of President Mahinda Rajapaksa. Janaka Bandara Tennekoon, Minister of Lands and Land Development, Deputy Minister Siripala

Gamlath, Lalith Weeratunga, Secretary to the President, Dr P B Jayasundara, Secretary to the Ministry of Finance and Ashoka Peiris, Secretary to the Ministry of Lands and Land Development were present at the occasion.



## Presidential Colours and Regimental Colours awarded to Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment



The ceremony to present Presidential Colours and Regimental Colours to the Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment was conducted under the patronage of President Mahinda Rajapaksa at the Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment in Boyagane, Kurunegala.

Senior Minister S B Navinna, Ministers Jayarathne Herath, Johnston Fernando, Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Lieutenant General Jagath Jayasuriya, Army Commander were also present at the ceremony.

*President during the inspection tour of the Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment*

## Mahaweli Deeds presented to beneficiaries



The ceremony to present deeds to the Mahaweli residents under the Mahaweli Development Programme was held under the patronage of President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Ministers Nimal Siripala de Silva, Thissa Karaliyadda, Rishad Bathiudeen, Gunarathne Weerakoon, Deputy Ministers S M Chandrasena, W B Ekanayake, Karunaratne Divulgane, Governor of the North Central Province, S M Ranjith, Chief Minister and Officials of the Sri Lanka Mahaweli Authority were present at the occasion.

*President giving away the deeds to Mahaweli beneficiaries*

## President opens new access way to Ampara-Pothuvil Muhudu Maha Viharaya



President Mahinda Rajapaksa declared open the new access way to Ampara-Pothuvil Muhudu Maha Viharaya.

The Maha Sangha led by Ven Ellawala Medananda Thero, Ven Dr Thumbulle Seelakkanda Nayaka Thero, Mohan Wijewickrama, Governor of the Eastern Province, P Dayaratne, Senior Minister, Minister Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, Nirmala Kothalawala, Project Minister, Deputy Ministers Geethanjana Gunawardane, Sarath Gunarathne, Gamini Senarath, Chief of Staff of the President and M K B Dissanayake, Secretary to the Ministry of Buddha Sasana were present at the occasion.

*President opening the new access way to the Ampara-Pothuvil Muhudu Maha Viharaya*



## VIR Guest Night Raises a toast to Commander-In-Chief



A special dinner ceremony was held in collaboration with the presentation of Presidential Colours and Regiment Colours to the Vijayaba Infantry Regiment at the Rock House Army Camp in Modera.

Lalith Weeratunga, Secretary to the President, Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Lt General Jagath Jayasuriya, Army Commander and Officers of the Infantry Regiment were present at the occasion.

*President, Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Lalith Weeratunga, Secretary to the President with the Vijayaba Infantry Regiment*

## Plans to erect largest Buddha Statue in Asia



*President at discussions with the Maha Sangha on erecting the largest Buddha Statue in Asia*

Discussions were conducted under the patronage of President Mahinda Rajapaksa at Temple Trees to construct the largest standing Buddha Statue in

Asia, in Makumbura, Kottawa. Ven Ittepana Dhammalankara Thero, Anunayake of the Sangha Sabha of the Kotte Kalyana Samagri Dharma Sabha, Ven Ellavala Medhananda

Thero, Ven Dr Bellanvila Vimalarathana Thero, Minister Bandula Gunawardana and M K A D S Gunawardana, Deputy Minister of Buddha Sasana, were present at the discussion.

## IT unit of Al Asra Vidyalaya opened



Keeping in line with the Deyata Kirula Exhibition, the IT unit of Al Asra Vidyalaya was ceremonially declared open by President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Mohan Wijewickrama, Governor of Eastern Province, Minister Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, Nirmala Kothalawala, Project Minister, Sarath Weerasekara, MP and Wimalaweera Dissanayake, Minister of Eastern Province were present at the occasion

*President at the opening of the IT Unit of Al Asra Vidyalaya*



## New People's Bank branch office opens in Ampara



The 15<sup>th</sup> branch of the People's Bank which opened and operated in a rented house in Ampara was relocated to a new four storey building with modern conveniences and was declared open by President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Under the Deyata Kirula development programme in the East the new People's Bank joins the banking sector as the head office in the Ampara district with its ultra modern auditorium and as the small and medium lending centre. P Dayaratne, Senior Minister, Minister Ranjith Siyambalapatiya, Mohan Wijewickrama, Governor of the Eastern Province, Najid Abdul Majid, Chief Minister of the Eastern Province and Gamini Senarath, Chairman of People's Bank and Chief of Staff of the President were also present at the occasion.

*President opening the plaque at the new bank branch*

## Pakistani Foreign Secretary meets President



Jilal Abbas Jilani, Secretary of the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs called on President Mahinda Rajapaksa at the Presidential Secretariat. While conveying "greetings and very best wishes" from Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari, Jilani said, "We in Pakistan greatly appreciate our friendship."

During the courtesy call Jilal Abbas Jilani told the President that he last visited Sri Lanka in 2005 during the war. "There is a marked difference, there is a peace and tranquility one feels." he said comparing then and now.

*Pakistani Foreign Secretary greeting the President*

## President opens Pearl Tourist Hotel



*President declaring open the Pearl Tourist Hotel*

Adding another contribution to the tourism industry in the country, President Mahinda Rajapaksa declared open the Pearl Tourist Hotel in Colpetty.

Minister S B Dissanayake and Alhaj A L Mohomad Faris, Chairman of the Pearl Group were present at the occasion.

## Scholarship to A/L qualified students



*Advanced Level students who received 3As receiving scholarships from the President*

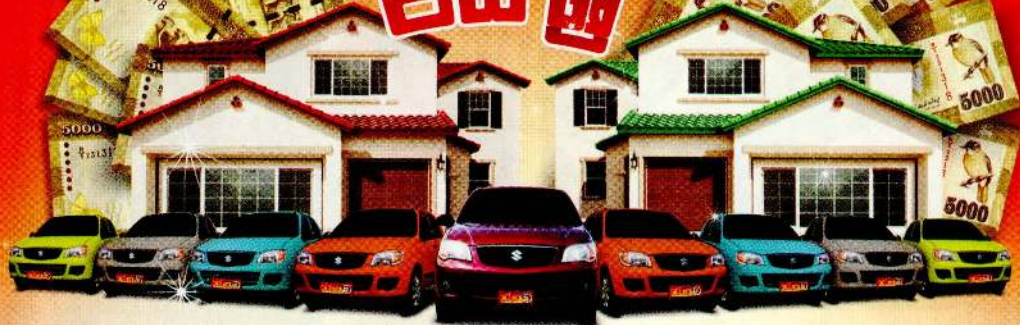
Students of 2011 who received 3 As in Bio Science at the GCE Advanced Level Exam who did not get the chance to enter medical college, were presented with scholarships by President Mahinda Rajapaksa at Temple Trees.

10 students received scholarships valued at 70,00,000 Rupees each.

S B Dissanayake, Minister of Higher Education and Sunil Jayantha Navarathne, Secretary to the Ministry were present at the occasion.



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PEOPLE'S BANK

## Jaya Sri

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GRAND DRAW 2013

### Monthly Draws



	<b>x9</b> 1st Prize A Suzuki Alto Car every month	100,000/- x 216	2nd Prize 24 Cash Prizes each worth Rs. 100,000/- every month	10,000/- x 6210	3rd Prize 690 Cash Prizes each worth Rs. 10,000/- every month
					



### Year End Grand Draw

**x2** Win 2 luxury houses each worth Rs. 10 Million or receive the amount in cash

To win these attractive prizes, all you have to do is maintain a minimum balance of Rs. 10,000/- throughout the month in a People's Bank Savings (Except Minor Savings Accounts) or a Current Account to be eligible for the Monthly Draw and maintain a minimum balance of Rs. 50,000/- including the month of December to be eligible for the Year End Grand Draw.

- Every additional Rs. 10,000/- and Rs. 50,000/- you save will add an extra winning chance at the draw.
- Maintaining your account balance after the initial deposit will offer you more winning chances at the Monthly Draws.

Now save more with People's Bank and enter the Jaya Sri Grand Draw to win the prizes you always wanted.

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**PEOPLE'S BANK**  
THE PULSE OF THE PEOPLE

An institution governed by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka



## President, the revered leader of Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim people



President with the people of Poththuvil

The people of all three nationalities put forward their grievances to the President at the 5th Mile Post, Sengamuva, Poththuvil.

They explained that due to poor bus services and delays in transport they faced great hardships in sending their children to school. They also lacked clean drinking water and water for agricultural work was also scarce. The President advised politicians of the area to look into the problems faced by people and provide necessary support to eradicate them.

## Aranthalawa Bhikkus remembered



President at the commemoration of Bhikkus who lost their lives in Aranthalawa

President Mahinda Rajapaksa participated in the commemoration of the Bhikkus who were brutally massacred by the LTTE in Aranthalawa including Ven Hegoda Indasara Nayaka Thero, Sanganayaka of both chapters of the Eastern Province, 31 other Bhikkus and 3 civilians.

Ven Udugama Sri Buddharakkhitha Thero, Maha Nayaka of the Asgiri Chapter, Ven Kirindivela Somarathana Thero, Chief Incumbent of the Hegoda Indasara Buddhist Centre and Vidyananda Pirivena in Ampara, Mohan Wijewickrama, Governor of the Eastern Province, Senior Minister P Dayarathne, Ministers Ranjith Siyambalapatiya, T B Ekanayake, Abdul Najid Majeed, Chief Minister of the Eastern Province and Gamini Senarath, Chief of Staff of the President were also present at the occasion.

## Restoration of Sapugoda Viharaya in Beruwela



President planting a Bodhi tree at the Sapugoda Viharaya in Beruwela

President Mahinda Rajapaksa declared open the new Sangawasa building and the surrounding wall of the Bodhi Tree at the 93 year old Kalutara, Beruwela Sapugoda Viharaya.

The President met Ven Thiniyawala Palitha Thero, Chief Incumbent of the Temple and offered pirikara.

Ven Pallaththara Sumanajothi Thero, Dakshina Lanka Sanganayaka and Ven Maduluwawe Sobhitha Thero followed by the Maha Sanga, Ministers Rajitha Senarathne, Kumara Welgama, Piyasena Gamage, Rohitha Abeygoonawardane, Nirmala Kothalawala, UNP MPs Ravi Karunanayake and Anoma Gamage were also present at the occasion.

## Website for Prof Ediriweera Sarachchandra



President opening the website

The website for Prof Ediriweera Sarachchandra was opened by President Mahinda Rajapaksa at Temple Trees.

Ministers T B Ekanayake, Bandula Gunawardane, Lalith Weeratunga, Secretary to the President, Lalitha Sarachchandra, Prof Carlo Fonseka, Chairman of the Ediriweera Sarachchandra Foundation, Prof J B Dissanayake, Prof U N O Dharmadasa, Preethi Viraja Perera, Secretary to the UNESCO National Commission, Charitha Herath, Secretary to the Ministry of Mass Media and Gen Ariyaratne Athugala, Director of the Department Information were present at the occasion.



## President arrives at Sri Sidhdhi Velayutham Kovil



President receiving blessings at the Kovil

President Mahinda Rajapaksa arrived at the Sri Sidhdhi Velayutham Kovil in Thirukkovil and received blessings from the Chief Kurukkal of the Kovil N Angusanathan.

## Ranbima deeds awarded by President



President awarding the Ranbima deeds

Keeping in line with the Deyata Kirula Exhibition, President Mahinda Rajapaksa distributed Ranbima ownership deeds to the north eastern people.

## Asian Five Nations Rugby Tournament



President enjoying the game

President Mahinda Rajapaksa and Johnston Fernando, Minister of Cooperatives and Internal Trade enjoyed Sri Lanka's victory



First Lady being introduced to the Sri Lankan Rugby team

against Chinese Taipei at the HSBC Asian Five Nations tournament at Havelock Park in Colombo.

Chief Guest First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa was introduced to the team by skipper Yoshitha Rajapaksa.

## Members of Legal Aid Commission meet President



Members of the Legal Aid Commission including Chairman S S Vijerathne met President Mahinda Rajapaksa at Temple Trees. Nissanka Udalagama, Past Supreme Court Judge, Dr P B Jayasundara, Secretary to the Ministry of Finance and Lalith Sepala Rathnayake, Senior Assistant Secretary to the President were some of those present at the occasion.

Members of the Legal Aid Commission at discussion with the President



## ETF Scholarships for students



President speaking at the scholarship awarding ceremony

A ceremony to grant scholarships to students who excelled in the A grade five scholarship exam in 2012 was held at Temple Trees under the patronage of President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

500 students who received highest marks under the district scheme received their awards from the President.

Sachin Aditya Bandara of Royal College, Colombo who received the highest score addressed the gathering and later spoke with the President.

Senior Minister Sarath Amunugama, Minister S B Dissanayake, Gamini Lokuge and K M A Godawatte, Chairman of the Department of ETF were present at the occasion.

## Film star Vijaya Kumaratunga's twenty-fifth Commemoration



President viewing the musical event at film star Vijaya Kumaratunga's twenty fifth commemoration

A commemoration musical event was held at the Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre to mark the 25th death anniversary of popular film actor, humanitarian activist and politician Vijaya Kumaratunga.

Dr Lester James Peiris, Sumithra Peiris, Thissa Abeysekara and Wasantha Obesekara who created Vijaya Kumaratunga the actor were lauded at the ceremony.

Minister Rajitha Senarathna, Chairman of the Vijaya brotherhood, Ministers Thissa Vitharana, Gayantha Karunatillake, Dayasiri Jayasekara and Dr Jayalath Jayawardane were present at the occasion.

## Avurudu Programme of the Welisara Naval Pre School



First Lady handing over gifts to children at the Welisara Naval Pre School

The Avurudu Programme of the Welisara Naval Pre School was held at the Naval Head Quarters with First Lady Shiranathi Rajapaksa as the Chief Guest.

Vice Admiral Jayanath Kolambage, Navy Commander, Srma Kolambage, Chairperson of the Navy Seva Vanitha Unit, Navy Officers and parents of the children of the pre school were present at the occasion.

## Gampola Zahira College students meet President



Students of Zahira College with the President

Children from Gampola Zahira College visited Temple Trees which is a favourite educational tour place among school children.

A donation of books was also arranged at the same time and the children happily posed for a photograph with the President.



## Relics of Lord Buddha gifted to Sri Lanka



*Relics of Lord Buddha being gifted to Sri Lanka*

The Gyalwang Drupka, spiritual head of the Drupka Order of Tibetan Buddhism, presented President Mahinda Rajapaksa with a bone Relic of the Buddha as a gift to Sri Lanka. "We now leave in your devotional hands one of our most priceless treasures,"

the Gyalwang Drupka said while making a request to President Rajapaksa to construct a monument to house the relics.

The presentation ceremony that took place at Temple Trees was the culmination of a month-long Pad Yatra, or a walking pilgrimage,

that was organized by the Drupka Order and the Live to Love humanitarian organization together with the Presidential Secretariat, National Youth Services Council (NYSC), Tharunyata Hetak, and the Youth Social Federation.

President Rajapaksa joined the inauguration of the Pad Yatra in Kataragama. A group of approximately 500, including monks, nuns and others from various countries, journeyed about 500 km from the southern tip of Sri Lanka to the northern tip in Jaffna.

"The first and most impressive experience for us," the Gyalwang Drupka explained, "is the harmonious unity among different cultures and religions. I believe this would not have been possible without the tireless effort of the President and his capable team of Ministers and Administrators."

Speaking at the function to thank the Gyalwang Drupka for the gift, Lalith Weeratunga, Secretary to the President said, "We have the highest regard for the Relic from the Enlightened One."

## Sannas Pathra presented to Maha Sangha



*President presenting the Sannaspathra to the Maha Sangha*

The Sannas Pathra presentation by President Mahinda Rajapaksa for awarding elephants to temples was observed at Temple Trees.

Ministry of Botanical Gardens and Public Recreation initiated the presenting of elephants to the temples and Getabaruwa Maha Viharaya, Kaluwela Sankapiti Viharaya and the Amarapura Sangha Sabha received elephants.

Ven Davuldena Gnanissara Maha Nayaka Thero of the Amarapura Maha Nikaya, Ven Beralapanakara Chandawimala Thero, Ven Brahmanawatte Seevali Thero, Ven Dodampahala Chandrasiri Thero, Ven Medavachchiya Dhammajothi Thero and the Maha Sangha were present at the occasion.

## Ceremony to welcome Ven Kegalle Rathanasara Thero



President Mahinda Rajapaksa joined in the ceremony to welcome Ven Kegalle Rathanasara Nayaka Thero who was awarded the Pradana Sangha Nayaka post of the Kotte Sri Kalyani Samagri Dharma Maha Sangha Sabha.

*President engaged in religious activities at the temple*



## Foreign Affairs Minister of Burkina Faso Calls on President



*Yipene Djibrill Bassole, Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Burkina Faso greeting the President*

Yipene Djibrill Bassole, Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Burkina Faso called on President Mahinda Rajapaksa at the Presidential Secretariat. Conveying a message from President of Burkina Faso, Blaise Compaore, Bassole commended President Rajapaksa's "effort to develop the country and to increase stability and reconciliation." Bassole said one of the purposes of the visit to Sri Lanka is to strengthen south-south cooperation. Burkina Faso being a member of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), he said, "We have to show solidarity."

Other members of the Burkina Faso delegation included Idriss Raoua Ouedraogo, Ambassador of Burkina Faso in Sri Lanka the Director of the Minister's Cabinet and Amadou Dicko, Director General for bilateral relations of the Burkina Faso, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation, and Gnama Henri Bacye.

Prof G L Peiris, Minister of External Affairs, Laliith Weeratunga, Secretary to the President, Karunatilake Amunugama, Secretary to the Ministry of External Affairs and I Ansar, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs also joined the meeting.

## Appreciation of teachers and Prefect selection at Bope Rajasinghe Vidyalaya



*Minister Bandula Gunawardana presenting prefects with badges*

The ceremony to appreciate teachers and present prefect positions to the elected prefects at Bope Rajasinghe Vidyalaya was held under the auspices of Bandula Gunawardana, Minister of Education at the school premises.

## Avurudu Nekath Seettuwa presented to President



*Avurudu Nekath Seettuwa was handed over to President Mahinda Rajapaksa*

The Avurudu Nekath Seettuwa was handed over to President Mahinda Rajapaksa by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs in a traditional ceremony at the Temple Trees.

T B Ekanayaka, Minister of Cultural Affairs, Vasantha Ekanayaka, Secretary to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Bandula Egodage and Officials of the Ministry were present at the occasion.

## Asia Pacific Children's Convention Mission Project 2013



*Minister Bandula Gunawardana with children of the Asia Pacific Children's Convention Mission Project*

"Japan helps Sri Lanka to stand strong in the world stage," said Education Minister Bandula Gunawardana addressing the inauguration of the Asia Pacific Children's Convention Mission Project 2013, at Sirimavo Bandaranaike Balika Vidyalaya.

The Japanese delegations comprised of 15 Japanese students and adults. The minister said arrangements are in place to upgrade 1,000 primary schools in Sri Lanka to secondary level under the guidance of President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Minister Gunawardana said that the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have also agreed to develop 412 schools among them.



## President pays homage to Dalada Maligawa



President visited the Malwathu Viharaya and met Ven Thibbotuwawe Sri Sumangala Maha Nayake Thero



President also visited Ven Napane Premasiri Nayake Thero, at Hurikaduwa Vidyasagara Maha Pirivena in Menikhinna, Kandy

President Mahinda Rajapaksa paid homage to the Sri Dalada Maligawa in Kandy. Tikiri Kobbekaduwa, Governor of the Central Province and Gamini Senarath, Chief of Staff of the President were present at the occasion.



## National Namal Uyana opened

The National Namal Uyana which has been reconstructed was opened by President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

President opening the plaque at Namal Uyana

## Acting President of Court of Appeal sworn in



Sisira Jayavilal De Abrew swearing in as the Acting President of the Court of Appeal before the President

Sisira Jayavilal De Abrew was sworn in as the Acting President of the Court of Appeal before President Mahinda Rajapaksa at Temple Trees.

Lalith Weeratunga, Secretary to the President was also present at the occasion.

## President receives blessings from Kataragama Mosque



President visiting the Kataragama Mosque as Namal Rajapaksa MP looks on

President Mahinda Rajapaksa visited the Muslim Mosque in Kataragama and received blessings.

Sashindra Rajapaksa, Chief Minister of Uva Province, Salinda Dissanayake, Minister of Indigenous Medicine and Namal Rajapaksa, MP were also present at the occasion.



## President visits Thanthirimale Upathissagama



President Mahinda Rajapaksa made a visit to Thanthirimale Upathissagama to examine the hardships and problems faced by the people there.

About 41 families who live in Thulana Grama Seva division brought forward their grievances to the President.

The Chief Sanghanayaka of North and East Ven Thanthirimale Chandarathana Thero, Chief Incumbent of the Thanthirimale ancient temple, Ven Pallegama Hemarathana Nayaka Thero, Chief Incumbent of the Ruwanweli Maha Seya, Minister Mervin Silva, Karunaratne Divulgane, Governor of the North Central Province, S M Chandrasena, Chief Minister, Deputy Ministers M K D S Gunawardane, W B Ekanayake and Weerakumara Dissanayake were also present at the occasion.

*President talking to residents at the Thanthirimale Upathissagama*



## Aluth Sahal Mangalyaya

Sri Lanka's traditional Aluth Sahal Mangalyaya of the farmers was held at the Sri Maha Bodhi premises in Anuradhapura.

*President paying homage to the sacred Sri Maha Bodhi and receiving blessings*

## Shirani Thillakawardene sworn in as Acting Chief Justice



Supreme Court Judge Shirani Thillakawardene was sworn in as the Acting Chief Justice before President Mahinda Rajapaksa at Temple Trees. Lalith Weeratunga, Secretary to the President was also present at the event.

*Shirani Thillakawardene swearing in as Acting Chief Justice before the President*





## President meets Presidential Secretariat Staff

President Mahinda Rajapaksa met and wished the Presidential Secretariat Staff for the Sinhala and Tamil New Year.

Lalith Weeratunga, Secretary to the President and religious leaders of all three religions were present at the occasion.

*President speaking to the Secretariat staff*

## Asian Five Nation Rugby Winning Team meets President



The Asian Five Nation Rugby Team who won the match met President Mahinda Rajapaksa at Temple Trees.

Mahindananda Aluthgamage, Minister of Sports was also present at the occasion.

*The Asian Five Nation Rugby team with the President*

## President inaugurates Thuruithurugama



President Mahinda Rajapaksa declared open Thuruithurugama Haritha Janasevana Housing scheme in Katukeliyawa, Anuradhapura. The President also presented the keys to the home owners.

Ven Pallegama Siriniwasa Nayaka Thero, Chief Incumbent of the Atamasthana, Ven Pallegama Hemarathana Thero, Chief Incumbent of the Ruwanweli Maha Seya, Ministers Wimal Weerawansa, Thissa Karalliyadda, Lasantha Alagiyawanna, Duminda Dissanayake, Karunarathne Divulgane, Governor of the North Central Province, Chief Minister S M Ranjith, Deputy Ministers S M Chandrasena, W B Ekanayake and Weerakumara Dissanayake were also present at the occasion.

*President after declaring open Thuruithurugama Haritha Janasevana Housing scheme in Katukeliyawa*



## New look for Sevana Lottery



*The first Jana Sevana Lottery being presented to President*

National Housing Development Authority and National Lotteries Board introduced 'Sevana' Lottery with a new look. The first lottery was inaugurated as 'Jana Sevana' and presented to President Mahinda Rajapaksa at Temple Trees by Wimal Weerawansa, Minister of Construction, Engineering Services, Housing and Common Amenities. Wimalasiri Perera, Ministry Secretary, A W Dayananda, Deputy Chairman of National Housing Authority, Brig Mahinda Mudalige, General Manager, Padma Udaya Shantha Gunasekara, Working Director, W Chandrawansa, Deputy General Manager, D Nanadani Samarawickrama, Director, Ministry of Housing and Chaminda Athaluwage, Chairman of National Lotteries Board were also present at the occasion.

## President at Kamburugamuva Hospital



President Mahinda Rajapaksa who visited the Kamburugamuva Hospital in Matara looked into the grievances of the hospital and spoke to some of the trainee nurses.

*President speaking to nurses at Kamburugamuva Hospital*



## New Training and Migrant Resource Centre

The first of many Training and Migrant resource centres was opened by President Mahinda Rajapaksa at Yayawatte, Godigamuwa in Tangalle. The training centres are built by the Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Bureau.

*President opening the new Training and Migrant Resource Centre in Tangalle*



## A budget pack from CWE during the festive season



President presented with the first budget pack from CWE

The CWE following President Mahinda Rajapaksa's advise and maintaining a stable price for essential goods during the festive season, introduced a special budget pack of essential items. The first budget pack was presented to the President at the Presidential Secretariat by Johnston Fernando, Minister of Co-operatives and Internal Trade.

Minister Basil Rajapaksa and Chairman of the CWE were also present at the occasion.

## PT for children of all schools in the island



Minister Bandula Gunawardana at the sports festival of Rajasinghe Madya Maha Vidyalyaya in Hanwella in the Homagama

Minister Bandula Gunawardana says that from next school term, it will be made compulsory for all school children to engage in a 10 minute PT session in the morning after religious activities before they start school work. This will lead to a healthy generation of children in the country.

The Minister made these comments when he arrived as the Chief Guest at the sports festival of Rajasinghe Madya Maha Vidyalyaya in Hanwella in the Homagama Education Zone.

## Productivity awards for 100 schools



Productivity awards being presented by Minister Bandula Gunawardana

Going beyond the Japanese 5S concept and adding a sixth component of 'safety' to it, 100 schools were awarded productivity awards under the patronage of Bandula Gunawardana, Minister of Education at the Cinnamon Grand hotel in Colombo.

The programme which was initiated by DFCC bank under the purview of the Ministry of Education is special in that the schools raised their own funds for the programme with guidance from DFCC bank.

Nihal Fonseka, Executive Director of DFCC bank, Lal Fonseka, Project Advisor of DFCC bank and Roshini Wijerathne, Officer in Charge of Projects of the DFCC bank were also present at the occasion.

## Certificates for Senior Public Executives



Lalith Weeratunga, Secretary to the President awarding certificates to Senior Public Executives

Lalith Weeratunga, Secretary to the President awarded certificates to 166 Senior Public Executives who successfully completed 'Capacity Building Programme.'

Speaking at the awarding ceremony at SLIDA, the Secretary to the President said that there is always room for new thinking and learning.

"Think new, start new as you can do much better than previous generations," he said.

Jointly organized by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Presidential Secretariat of the Sri Lanka, the Programme is aimed at supporting the development and strengthening the capability of Additional Secretaries and department heads by drawing on the latest thinking and best practices concerning their roles, remittances and issues.



## The book titled “Baudhdha Pudapuja Sanskruthiya” presented to President



The book titled “Baudhdha Pudapuja Sanskruthiya” being presented to President by Ven Dr Bellanvila Wimalarathana Anunayake Thero, Chancellor of the Sri Jayawardanepura University

The book titled “Baudhdha Pudapuja Sanskruthiya” authored by Ven Dr Bellanvila Wimalarathana Anunayake Thero, Chancellor of the Sri Jayawardanepura University was presented to President Mahinda Rajapaksa at Temple Trees.

## President assists Shanika Kumari Herath



Shanika Kumari Herath and her family with the President

Shanika Kumari Herath who is a student of St Joseph’s Girls’ School in Kegalle, was offered financial assistance in her education by President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Shanika, who is suffering from a hearing impairment, performed a dance that held the spectators transformed at the ceremony held at Temple Trees to grant teaching posts for nearly 3000 Science Teaching Diploma holders.

## Development plan of ancient Wewurukannala Raja Maha Viharaya



President at discussion of the development plans for ancient Wewurukannala Raja Maha Viharaya

President Mahinda Rajapaksa discussed future development plans for the ancient Wewurukannala Raja Maha Viharaya with Ven Dr Dikwelle Thissa Nayaka Thero, Chief Incumbent of the Temple.

The President was on a tour in Matara and while there, engaged in religious activities at the Wewurukannala Raja Maha Viharaya.

## Certificates presented to National Science Diploma Holders



President presents appointment letters

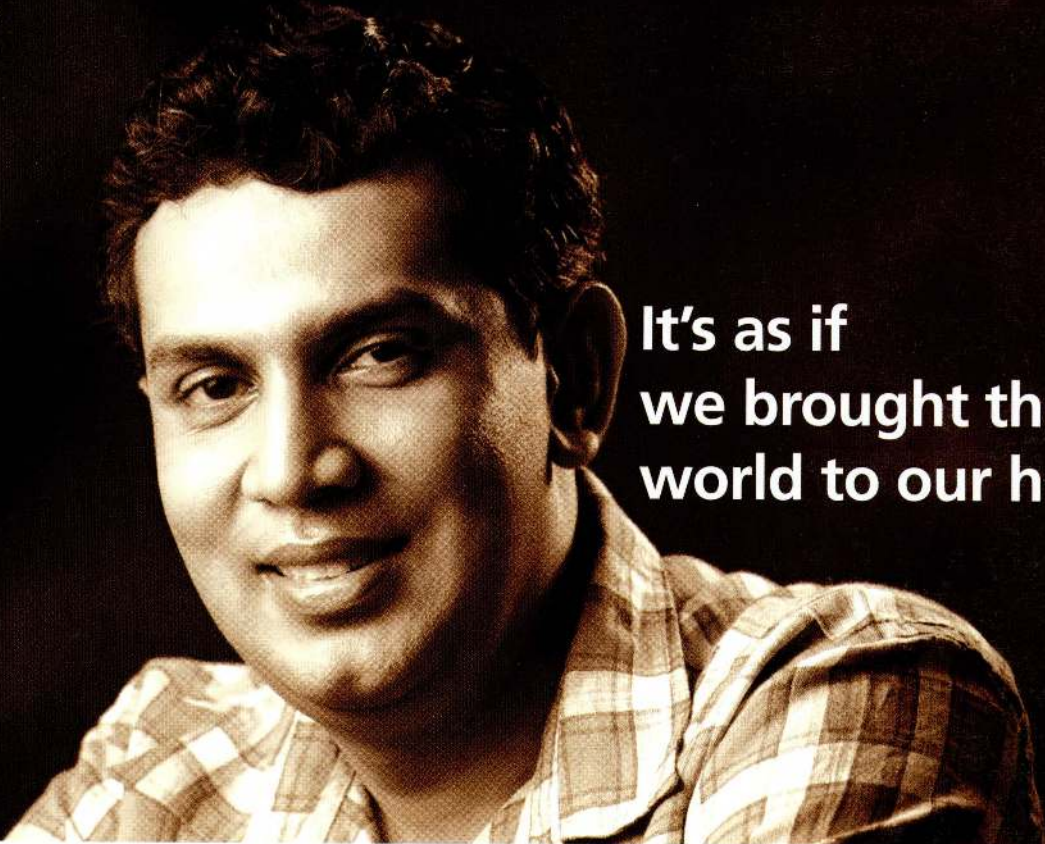
President Mahinda Rajapaksa presented letters of appointments to 2,460 National Science Diploma Holders from 18 colleges of education at Temple Trees.

Minister Bandula Gunawardena, Duminda Dissanayake, Educational Services Minister W J M Lokubandara and G A Chandrasiri Governors of Sabaragamuwa and Northern provinces respectively and Mohan Lal Gero, Education Ministry Monitoring MP were also present.



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