

The Daily News Line by Faraz



AKD VOWS NO REVERSAL IN ANTI NARCO WORK

President Anura Kumara Disanayake emphasized that while the Government has undertaken the task of rebuilding the nation's collapsed economy, it has also assumed the responsibility of restoring a society that has deteriorated on many fronts. The President stressed that the decisive steps taken by the Government to end the dark rule that dragged society into ruin through the drug trade and the power of arms will not, under any circumstances, be reversed.

The President further stated that the Government intends to launch a national campaign to eradicate drug menace from the country. In this effort, the Maha Sangha will have a significant role to play, particularly in travelling from village to village to raise awareness among the people.

The President also reaffirmed that in developing the tourism sector, it is the Government's policy to avoid doing anything harmful to the country. The President explained that the Government's goal is to build the tourism industry upon the nation's historical heritage, natural beauty, wildlife reserves and the world's recognition of the warm hospitality of the Sri Lankan people.

President Anura Kumara Disanayake further stated: "Our Venerable Naranpanawe Ananda Thero assumes this office of Anunayake at a time when both our society and the Sasana are facing great challenges. I firmly believe that his qualities of patience, compassion and courage will serve as a powerful source of strength in guiding us successfully on this journey."

Our society is confronted with numerous crises. While we may be able to rebuild a collapsed economy, restoring a society that has suffered deep moral degradation is far more difficult. Our society has been fractured on many fronts. People have become insensitive, failing to show empathy towards the suffering of others. Wealth and power have come to be regarded as the ultimate measure of right and wrong. Therefore, what we now need is the re-establishment of a righteous value system.



Buddhism has always taught us a noble framework of values. Today, however, that framework has been eroded and a distorted value system has emerged in society. It is imperative that we re-establish within society a clear sense of what is right and good. As a State, we understand our responsibility in this regard and are committed to fulfilling it. Yet, in the task of healing society, the greatest role will fall upon the Maha Sangha.

At present, our country has a government established by the Constitution. At the same time, however, there exists a parallel dark regime,

not as legitimate or powerful, but possessing the trappings of governance, built upon the force of arms. To safeguard the lawful, constitutional government, it is essential to dismantle this dark regime. Our Government has chosen this path and I solemnly pledge here today that the steps we have taken in this regard will never be reversed.

The devastating consequences of that dark regime are evident from recent events. Through drugs, illicit weapons, unlawful assets, amassed wealth, armed groups and a youth culture willing to kill with firearms, a destructive social order has been created. If we are to reform society, this dark regime must be brought to an end and as a Government, we are determined to fulfill that duty with strength and resolve.

However, to prevent such conditions from arising again through successive regimes, our society must be purified and guided towards a new renaissance. In this endeavour, the Maha Sangha has been entrusted with a profound responsibility.

Therefore, the guidance and counsel of our Nayake Thero will be of immense importance in the mission to restore our society.

Secondly, as a society, we need spirituality. The foundation for nurturing our spiritual life lies in Buddhist culture. The values and guidance that our spiritual life receives through Buddhist culture cannot be replaced or erased by laws and regulations, they represent a historical bond.

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MALCOLM CARDINAL RANJITH ON LGBTQ MARKETING PLAN

Criticising the government's move to allow the promotion of LGBTQ tourism in Sri Lanka, Archbishop of Colombo Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith said such a move would destroy the country's culture.

"Sri Lanka should not allow children and youth to become victims of foreigners who come here to fulfill their unacceptable desires. We do not know whether President Anura Kumara Disanayake is aware of this, but we hope that he understands the gravity of the issue," Cardinal Ranjith said at a Sunday service.



We must not harass those who are born with homosexual tendencies. They should be treated with kindness.

However, those who are not born with such tendencies should not be forced to change," he added.

His Holiness, Pope Francis:

Encouraged compassion and inclusion for LGBT people within the Catholic Church, famously asking "who am I to judge?" regarding gay priests and stating that "being homosexual isn't a crime".

While promoting respect, integration, and love, he maintained traditional Church doctrine that homosexual activity is a sin, though the Church under him allowed for blessings of same-sex couples in certain circumstances and permitted transgender people to serve as godparents.

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Losses Mount But Figures Not Available

Officials from Sri Lanka's State Debt Management Office reported that Sri Lanka's outstanding debt includes US\$37b in foreign loans and Rs. 19.6 trillion in domestic loans.

Be that as it may, the very same State Debt Management Office were unable to provide the exact repayments due this year.

The committee chairman expressed dissatisfaction and emphasised the importance of employing skilled personnel in the Debt Management Office to strengthen loan acquisition and repayment.

In the past a former president (Sirisena) said that in his government 'appointments will be made on a scientific basis'. It was noted then that Sirisena - as the appointing authority - made a person with extensive knowledge of selling a good cup of coffee and expertise in the garment sector, the Chairman of Sri Lankan Airlines. Try as we may, no rationale existed for that scientific basis - save perhaps what all of us in Sri Lanka already know: the statement was made for political expediency. Just like the rice from the heavens, the appointment of a planter to head Sri Lankan Airlines and matters in that trajectory.

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The enduring strength of our Buddhist culture lies in its deep integration into the daily lives of the people. The Maha Sangha has been the guardian of our proud religion and cultural heritage. However, some of the news and events concerning monks, the protectors of this religion, are not consistent with the dignity and continuity of the Buddhist order.

Our Mahanayaka Theros have consistently emphasized the need to establish the necessary legal framework to uphold this. In particular, they have requested amendments to Sections 41 and 42 of the Buddhist Temporalities Ordinance. These amendments have been prepared and returned to the Mahanayaka Theros for their input. Following their guidance, the revisions have now been submitted to the Legal Draftsman's Department. We will soon enact this law, providing the legal protection required to maintain the discipline necessary for the perpetuation of the order. As a government, we consider this our solemn duty.

However, legal protection alone is not enough. Today's society requires the guidance of monks like the Most Venerable Naranpanawe Ananda Anunayake Thero, leaders with deep knowledge, extensive education and decades of dedicated service. Over nearly four decades of monastic life, he has contributed significantly to the people, to the preservation of the order and to the protection of the motherland, taking on and accomplishing the most difficult challenges. Monks of such calibre are essential today for the continuation of the Buddhist order and for the betterment of society.

Regarding the Penal Code, although amendments prepared in advance were presented to Parliament, they have not yet been passed. We now have the opportunity to propose further amendments if necessary, or to maintain the current provisions. These laws are not intended for personal gain; their focus is the common good. Our vision is to build a stronger and better state, a goal that can only be realized by recognizing and fulfilling the responsibilities entrusted to us as the ruling party, with significant roles assigned to our Mahanayaka Theros.

We also face the urgent need to combat the drug menace, which is claiming the lives of millions of young people. We call on those involved in drug use and trafficking to cease these activities. This effort requires societal awakening and we urge the Maha Sangha to lead this initiative, raising awareness and guiding communities at the village level.

JUSTICE MINISTER CONFIRMS CORPORAL PUNISHMENT AMENDMENT NOT YET LAW

Justice Minister Harshana Nanayakkara has said the proposed amendment to Section 19 of the Penal Code, concerning corporal punishment of children, has not been enacted.

Speaking to the media on Friday, the Minister said Parliament had conducted a second reading debate on the Penal Code Amendment Bill on September 24.



He explained that for the amendment to take effect, corresponding changes would also have to be made to the Code of Criminal Procedure, a step that has not yet occurred. The Bill therefore remains pending.

Minister Nanayakkara added that further changes could still be considered during the committee stage in Parliament, where amendments may be tabled.

"The amendment regarding corporal punishment remains at the debate stage and has not been passed as legislation," he said.

MAHINDA RAJAPAKSA APPRECIATES THE SUPPORT HE HAS RECEIVED FROM THE PEOPLE

Former President Mahinda Rajapaksa has expressed heartfelt gratitude for what he described as an enduring and sincere connection with the people, underscoring that the relationship is one built on trust, respect, and shared history—rather than political convenience or personal gain.



In a reflective note shared via his official Facebook account, Rajapaksa looked back on his decades in public life, highlighting the unwavering support he has received throughout his political journey. He emphasised that the affection shown to him over the years transcends typical political allegiance, calling it a "heartfelt bond" that has grown stronger even when tested. "This is far more than a political alliance," he wrote. "It is a connection forged through shared experience and mutual respect, one that has withstood the test of time. Often, attempts to weaken such ties only strengthen them further." He went on to describe his time among the people as the most rewarding aspect of his leadership, saying it brought him "the greatest joy" of his public service career. Concluding his message, Rajapaksa offered his sincere appreciation to the public, thanking them for what he called a profound and unbreakable bond.

Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith...

Emphasis on Inclusion and Respect

"Who am I to judge?":

In 2013, Pope Francis's iconic phrase to journalists highlighted a shift towards not marginalizing people based on sexual orientation.

Decriminalization of Homosexuality:

He called laws that criminalize homosexuality "unjust" and stated that being homosexual is not a crime.

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Shorts

US President Donald Trump says they are waiting for Hamas to respond after Israel agreed to the initial withdrawal line outlined in his proposed peace plan. If Hamas agrees, a ceasefire would be "immediately effective" and a hostage swap would begin: Foreign Media.- Hirunews.lk

Three persons (41, 80, 82) have died after a lorry collided with a bus near the Narammalatown along the Kurunegala-Narammala road. Three other persons, including two children, were hospitalised: Police.- Hirunews.lk

Seven suspects were arrested with 5.5kg of the narcotic 'Hash', with a street value of around Rs. 50 million, following raids conducted in the areas of Habaraduwa and Baddegama: Police.- Hirunews.lk