

## ලංකා කොමියුනිස්ට් එක්සත් කේන්දුය இலங்கை கொம்யூனிஸ்ட் ஐக்கிய கேந்திரம் Ceylon Communist Unity Centre

NO . 152 1/3, HULFTSDORP STREET, COLOMBO -12, SRI LANKA

MEDIA MEETING

22.07.2020 at 3.30pm

BRIGHTEN REST No 214/2, MESSENGER STREET, COLOMBO-12

Ceylon Community Unity Centre has called upon the people of this country to use their power and right of ballot to prevent the Sri Lanka Podhujana Peramuna and the forces aligned with it from winning the forth coming parliamentary elections in order to regain the democratic space which has been relatively existing between 2015 and 2019 and to win-over the advanced democracy and to defeat the ethnic and religious fundamentalism and to establish real equality and unity among the people belonging to all the Religions and Nationalities.

This was called upon at the press meeting of the Ceylon Community Unity Centre presided over by its president, Comrade W.V.Somaratna, General Secretary Comrade E.Thambiah and Treasurer Comrade R.Nelson Mohanraj held at Brighten Rest, Colombo on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020.

The brief of the views expressed in the media meeting as follows,

Beside the allegations of corruption, fraud and inefficiency against the previous regime, in 2015 the democratic space was regained. As the Democratic and Leftist forces have failed to function with vigilance in that democratic space, Gotabaya Rajapaksa who possesses the basics to deny that space has been elected as the President of the country.

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Although the 19th amendment to the constitution has pruned the executive powers of the President, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, arbitrarily acts where there is no parliament. Military domination is being established by him in every civil affair. The Tamils, Muslims and Upcountry Tamils the oppressed nationalities are dissatisfied and under fear as the result of the Sinhala Buddhist hegemony stand of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. He rejects that the political solution to be found for the Nationality question.

Further, the Sri Lanka Podhujana Peramuna consisting of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa too has called upon the people to give it with two third majority in parliament in order to repeal the 13th and 19th Amendments to the constitution and to remove the independent commissions and it promises to do so if the two third majority is given to it. If that is allowed the remaining Democratic situation also will disappear.

The Corona Pandemic which has put all the world people and all the countries in peril has changed upside down, as well as the existence of our country and people. The pandemic which threats human lives has made thousands and thousands unemployed. This cannot be solved by giving small concessions to the people and no populist speeches and activities, pseudo nationalism, pseudo left leniency are the solution. The adverse effect of the pandemic can only be faced with people oriented policies and practices.

The President Gotabaya Rajapaksa is militarising all the affairs in the guise of anti-pandemic operation. These types of activities giving priority to military will not pave the way for viable solutions.

In this backdrop the people should understand the entire situation and use their ballot power or right. The forth coming Parliamentary Election is not the ground between capitalism and Socialism but between Democracy and Anti-Democracy. However, there is no Alliance of political parties and organisation which stand for democracy neither common understanding among them to face the elections. The political parties and organisations that stand for democracy are divided and split.

In these circumstances in order to defeat the Anti-Democratic forces the people should cast their votes for the parties and organisation which are liked by them and having chance of winning and reject the anti-democratic forces by increasing the numbers of the representatives of the said parties and organisations which stand for democracy.

Comrade W.V. Somaratne

Comrade E. Thambiah

(President)

(General Secretary)