

Vanakkam Maanpumihu Sabanayakar avarkale !

jkpo; kf;fs; Njrpaf; \$l;lzp rhu;gpy; Kjw;fz; vd; tho;j;Jf;fisj; njuptpj;Jf; nfhs;fpd;Nwd;.

I start my felicitations Honourable Speaker hailing you in my mother tongue , the oldest living language of this world and the language of the first indigenous inhabitants of this country and proceed in the link language. I thank Your Honour for accepting such a high position in our Parliamentary tradition. I am sure Your Honour would bring with your High Office your experience with Men and Matters gained throughout your long political career.

We have a very powerful Government now. A similar Government was constituted under the late J.R.Jayewardene in 1977. It was during that regime that we had the 1983 Pogrom. Certainly this Government too could follow the path of the Elephant of that time and end up as today reduced to a single Member in the future. But I am sure they would not. They would prefer to learn from our mistakes of the past and usher in a period of peace and prosperity where all communities would feel equal to each other and walk with dignity and pride as children of Mother Lanka. That freedom and equality could dawn only if we shed the false historical perspectives of the past and recognise the intrinsic rights of the People living in the North and East of Sri Lanka who are entitled to the right of self determination as per Article one of Chapter one of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in addition to their hereditary and traditional right to be recognized as a Nation.

Sir! I hope we would not be called upon in this August Assembly of Parliamentarians in the future during your Honour's term of office for your protective assistance since we would respect each other's rights and our duties towards each other. But we are sure you would guide us all without fear or favour if any such impasse comes to pass.

But there is no need Sir! in a country which professes Buddhism to expect a hegemonic dominance from anyone since we have not forgotten what the Sinhala villager is only too well familiar with - that every act has its opposite reaction- Kala kala dey pala whey! Isthuthi Garu Kathanayakathumani!.

Justice C.V.Wigneswaran,M.P.