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MIDDLE EAST | EUROPE | AUSTRALIA | NORTH AMERICA

11th June 2019

Jaathika Vidwath Bikshu Sansadaya
Colombo
Sri Lanka

GSLF-Ex. Comm. Proposals and Demands to the Presidential Candidate

The Global Sri Lankan Forum – Executive Committee, (GSLF-Ex. Comm.) while highly appreciating the initiative taken by Jaathika Vidwath Bikshu Sansadaya to compile a some nationally and globally viable proposals to be presented to the nationalist future Presidential candidate, we GSLF-Ex. Comm., a forum of Sri Lankan expatriates Sri Lankans living in 12 countries across Australia, North America, Middle East, Europe, Asia have decided to contribute this nationally very import task.

The numbers of Professionals, Academics, and Intellectuals in the GSLF-Ex. Comm. tirelessly worked over a period to come out with following nationally important proposals in various aspects for your kind review and consideration.

The representatives of the GSLF-Ex. Comm. will be available with prior notifications to discuss and develop further these proposals for the final submission.

The proposals are described below:

1.0 Security

Sri Lanka being an Island, securing its maritime borders shall be treated as of primary importance to assure the security of country. It is necessary to emphasize on covering any loopholes in the customs procedures and their implementation.

The Tamil terrorists developed their military strength through smuggling all kind of light and heavy arms and tons of explosives due to the poorly managed Sri Lankan Navy operations.

It is the same case with the Islamic terrorists who also smuggled tons of explosives to Sri Lanka through sea ports and poorly secured coast line of Sri Lanka taking the advantages of relaxed security status in the country after Jan. 2015.

No terrorist organization in Sri Lanka will survive unless they got a free flow of supply line from the sea. The classic example is the two failed insurgencies lunched by JVP.

1.0 Proposal

The strengthen the Sri Lanka Navy' capabilities to be doubled or tripled and invest on modern high-tech equipment and should provide highly professional training to all officers and other rankers of the SLN. It should explore possibilities of developing own technology, floating business like RUAG in Switzerland (owned by government), if necessary.

2.0 Law & Order

The story of success and development of all the developed western countries and recently developed countries like Singapore, Middle Eastern Countries in particularly the UAE, Korea, Malaysia etc. is the proper maintaining and upholding of Law and Order in the society. The well maintained Law and Order enhances the confidence of the general public, and that of the international community in relation to Sri Lanka.

Currently, the law and order is heavily influenced by the dictates of the interfering politicians and thus affects the efficiency of the law enforcement machinery. This makes Sri Lanka a more extractive society in comparison to the countries mentioned above that have attained prosperity by transforming them

into inclusive societies, where everyone has a chance regardless of who one knows.

While the interference of politicians in the maintaining of Law and Order is to be addressed politically, we would suggest following to be considered.

1.0 Proposal

The strength of the Sri Lankan Police force must be enhanced and invest on modernizing all the Police stations with high-tech equipment to serve the public in very high professional manner.

2.0 Proposal

Highly professional training is to be given to the police officers to enhance their leadership and personal dignity.

3.0 Proposal

Undue influence and political interference shall be eradicated.

3.0 Politics and Constitution

Under the politics we propose following;

1. Withdraw from the co-sponsorship of UNHRC resolution 30/1 and we should not endorse any resolutions, international agreements that endanger the national security and the unitary state of Sri Lanka.
2. New laws shall be brought for election campaigns that all expenditure for election by a candidate is to be limited to some reasonable amount and it shall apply to the candidates and to the parties too.

3. The maximum number of all of ministers such as Cabinet, State, and Deputy etc. shall not be exceeded more than 30.
4. The current electoral system which ends up with always in a hang parliament and depend on minority votes shall be changed as a matter of top priority of the new President and the new government.
5. More electorate shall be formed in the area where density of the population has seen an increased in the recent past such as;
 - i. Malabe
 - ii. Nugegoda
 - iii. Kottawa and Pannipitiya
 - iv. Kadawatha
 - v. Gampaha
 - vi. Galle, etc.
 - vii. Kandy
 - viii. Kalutara

Note

The new election system must be introduced to allow well-meaning respected citizens of the society to be able to compete at elections with a minimum budget; this invariably requires restricting the current electorate geographical area.

Representatives to the parliament must be based on the population in a region. So Kotte must have more representatives than Mahiyangane and Mulathive or Kalmunaya. But to cater to disadvantaged to less populated regions, some measures must be devised to accommodate them – specially to accommodate the minority regions and smooth out woes– it must make sure that particular minorities do not overrule the majority.

The current form of electorates in the North and East Provinces shall be reviewed and readjusted to reduce on par with density of population.

It must curtail the opportunity of MPs ruling on major issues without public consent. Certain International agreements such UNHRC Resolution no 30/1, ECTA, MCA, SOFA and constitutional change etc. must be put to a referendum.

Example: With a referendum Switzerland banned “Minarett” in Mosques, as well as restricted European migration – it must promote direct democracy as against power for self- serving politicians.

Under the subject of the Constitution we propose following;

1. Amend in order to safeguard national security and unitary status of the country or totally repeal all the Acts, Bills etc. enacted to comply with the 30/1 UNHRC resolution such as;
 - i. Office of Missing Person Act
 - ii. Reparation
 - iii. Truth Commission
 - iv. Etc
2. Under no circumstances the constitution shall be amended to form a Federal or similar state within Sri Lanka and/or to dilute the unitary state of the country.
3. Under any circumstances it should not allow for separatism to rise it’s head in Sri Lanka that will endanger the existence of the Sinhala community that has no links to ethnic groups outside Sri Lanka .
4. The Article 9 of the Constitution shall not be changed, amended, revised or repealed. It shall be maintained on its current form and importance.

4.0 Foreign Policy

1. The national foreign policy shall be non-aligned stance while maintaining close and cordial relationship with Western and Eastern without any detrimental to the peaceful existence of the country. This national policy shall be drawn and finalized with the consent of all political parties. A mechanism must be set, so that any deviation shall be brought for referendum
2. All appointment of the diplomats shall strictly be limited to career trained diplomats. No diplomat appointments shall be made based on the ethnicity or political party except in the case of exceptional circumstance where such as national security and national policy interest.
3. Restrict the ownership of land by foreigners as it impacts on national sovereignty.

5.0 Education

1. It must make compulsory that all children should go to school minimum until the secondary school.
2. University higher education shall be provided to all the students who are qualified to receive the University education. To reach this objective open and encourage foreign and local private investors invest in tertiary education.
3. Ban completely private tuition classes on weekends and religious holidays.
4. It shall make compulsory that each students shall do at least one extra-curriculum during his/her school time.
5. History of the country shall be reintroduced.

6. All religious curriculums shall be reviewed and amend if any teachings are included that against the humanity.
7. Buddhist text books shall be in line with the Thripitakaya and shall not be mealy taught as a management tool.

Notes

- i. Physical education: there are a lot of school sport competitions, but our population is becoming obese. Sports Infrastructure must be made available in every Grama Sevaka units for common people to be engaged in exercises.
- ii. In order for people to continue living healthy lives, practices must be inculcated at young age – current sport philosophy of winning over the other must be changed to one that involves larger participation.
- iii. Only highly specially trained graduate teachers are to be employed up to grade seven classes to teach the children not only educational subjects but core values and morale of life, proud history of Sri Lanka.
- iv. The top priority shall be given to provide very high quality school and university education to all the students as the educated nation is an asset to the country. Accordingly, 5% or more of the GDP shall be allocated for the education sector.
- v. Buddhist text books: It was found that some text books used to teach Buddhism has been converted into management books instead of teaching of Lord Buddha. As the school is the main place to learn the religion, it shall be dedicated to teach the Buddhism, but not the opinion of some education committee.

6.0 Resettlement and Reconciliation

1. Resettle all the ethnic groups who were internally displaced due to Tamil terrorism in their original places and provide necessary infrastructure and employment within the same area.
2. The special attention shall be given to resettlement of internally displaced Sinhala people as they were neglected and being discriminated under the pretext of reconciliation during last five years. Even, immediately after the war, these internally displaced Sinhala people were ignored and were not given the due attention and compensations.
3. Immediately re-open Sinhala Maha Vidyalaya in Jaffna and provide all necessary facilities. This will facilitate to those Sinhala people who were in Jaffna prior of Tamil terrorism to settle fully in Jaffna as currently their families are scattered due to lack of Sinhala schools in Jaffna and other areas. (All Tamil schools occupied by the military during the war with Tamil terrorists have now been handed over to the Ministry of Education except the Sinhala Maha Vidyalaya in Jaffna)
4. Provide necessary infrastructure such as schools, housing, and employment to internally displaced Sinhala people in North and East two provinces.
5. Amend the 13th Amendment to the Constitution in order to maintain a solid unitary state in Sri Lanka. Further, revise the structure of the inefficient and costly provincial and local council mechanism to more practical administrative arrangement.
6. Empower, district development council mechanism which is smaller unit than a large provincial administration.

7.0 Immigration

Sri Lanka must revisit its immigration policy. If accepting refugees would be necessary to keep up with international obligations, it shall look at practices of the developed world and shall devise controls and integration mechanisms like learning the local language.

All demography changed settlements shall be abolished and refugees shall be repatriated.

8.0 Transport

A long term plan must be made to link cities with rail, which should be the major form of transport. Build a fund and High taxes imposed on import of vehicles should go to that fund. People must be able to get to work by public transport without a car.

9.0 Housing

Building of high-rise buildings in the regions must be encouraged, in order to stop spreading of habitat. This should encourage larger investments as against, small businessmen selling coconut plantations for house building.

New areas that had been populated to gain ethnical advantage shall be reallocate and distribute fairly among all ethnic groups.

10.0 Environment

Towns must be encouraged to mark green areas that shall be reserved. Every town shall have a forest.

11.0 Finance

It is a fact that government income are low and it is not being properly managed. The two classic examples are not collecting the taxes in an efficient manner and not imposing hefty fines on anti- social crimes

In view of above it is proposed to increase the government revenue.

- 1. Foreign Exchange Vs. Higher Education** – The government shall explore to earn more foreign exchange through the Sri Lankan professional expatriates than exporting unskilled labor and house maid categories. In order to achieve this objective Sri Lanka should increase the University education to its people.
- 2. More Concessions to Farmers and Better Price for their Products** – a mechanism to provide fair and reasonable market price for paddy farmers in order to enhance their living standards and to provide better price for the consumers.
- 3. Effective means of improving productivity** – proposals to reduce the wastage of agricultural and fisheries produce and the handling of transportation. Government to formulate the necessary legislation to encourage railway transportation than individual Lorries.
- 4. Innovative Fisheries Industry** – to obtain the maximum benefits from the fisheries industry introduce more modern technology and techniques and conduct more training to concerned people.
- 5. Local Tourism Industry** – in parallel to the promotion of tourism internationally, it is equally important to promote local tourism within the

country. In order to do so, it needs to develop tourism infrastructure to suit local tourists and local tourist attractions.

- 6. Enhance Rural Economy** - Establish regional and provincial economic zones and export villages for the product and services according to the locally available resources.
- 7. Self-finance the Government Departments and Services** – propose that the government department be self-sufficient to some extent to cover their day to day running and operational cost whereby the saved government funds can be utilized for other needy sectors.
- 8. Improving Foreign Employment Opportunities** – The human resources are the largely available resources in Sri Lanka. Effective managing it would have a huge positive impact to the economy. Accordingly, proposals are to be formulated to enhance few selected sectors for which there is a significant demand in the international job market.
- 9. Increasing the tax turnover** - It is proposed to formulated an effective mechanism to collect the taxes and duties in particularly from the professionals who are having private and freelance practice, from sportsmen, performance artists so on.

Note

There is a lot of people in Sri Lanka who earn massive amounts but don't pay taxes, example tuition masters, doctors, lawyers, artists, freelance service providers so on – as none provides a receipt to their clients which is the basis for tax collection. That way country becomes poor, some individuals to become rich.

Proposal

Law shall be passed that all transactions shall be done through the bank cheques as to the payments for products and services provided by all professionals and others.

12.0 Frauds and Corruptions

Central bank Treasury bond scam precedential commission report shall be fully disclosed, if necessary fresh inquiry shall be conducted and all liable people must be penalized.

All other corruptions reported, including copper containers, karunka, luxurious vehicle etc. shall be investigated and all liable people must be penalized.

13.0 Acquiring of national assets that had been sold or leased

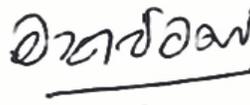
Inquiry shall be conducted to find to acquire again national treasuries like Hambanthota Port, Harbor Jetties, Oil tank in Trinco etc that had been sold or leased for low value.

Thanking You,

The Global Sri Lankan Forum – Executive Committee



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