

It is not the exclusive right or protected territory of Sri Lankan politicians to play around with their mud slinging ephemerally called 'personality politics.'

Please look around if you want proof available in abundance is this lucky country too.

Australia is luckier in a way for its opportunities in this game offer themselves in an amazing sequence and unexpected circumstances.

It was Abbott to start with, followed by Bishop and all of a sudden a Slipper drops from heaven giving an excellent target for a government looking for ammunition to shoot down its sworn enemies. That is not a term normally used to refer to an opposition politician or a party, but in this country that is how things are shaping nowadays.

Julia Gillard apparently made full use of her forensic skills to put down Abbott after his unwanted and un healthy remarks about her. Abbott on his part had been wasting his lungs on a carbon war in spite of the fact that most respected scientists and climatologists were warning about the impending disaster.

When Abbott found that he had run out of puff, he delegated the job of hunting the rival to his deputy Julie Bishop and she went to town with a new discovery, that of an HSA loan.

This continued for the last week of sitting before the winter recess. Even if there was any truth in their accusations, it does not appear to have had



Abbott, Bishop, Slipper and WHAT NEXT?

to be following a principle say at all. Any one doing so was or is trying his best to use cheap propaganda in the absence of principles or policies. This is what is ailing the body politic of Australia. It is the very thing that our

any cost

However, all the credit cannot be given to the government or its P.M. Julia Gillard has not used her debating skills that brought her to this position in a judicious manner. One would expect a female Prime Minister to bring in a measure of feminine grace and tolerance that a male is not capable of. Her recent performances fall far short of that. In criticising Tony Abbott she went too far and made them too personal in my view. It is surely the reason for her approval rating to go down in the recent polls.

I may be prejudiced, but my opinion on Julie Bishop has not generally been very good. Even granting that I think she too displayed that very weakness in going after another woman, the P.M. I would have really enjoyed a healthy rivalry and a forceful debate between the two leading females, but that failed to materialize. How fortunate we would have been, if that kind of political rivalry was the order of the day.

To be frank, I would like to see Julia Gillard winning a second time, although her entry into the top job was not very laudable. But she has a mountain to

climb before she achieves that goal. She has to shake off the 'false promises' accusations levelled against her all along, and perhaps admit that her change of policy or action was necessitated by valid reasons and developments. I think she has been too slow in doing so. Even more damaging are the problems she herself created by her unhealthy and hasty announcements. One was the East Timore solution to refugee issue. That was utterly uncalled for and ill-timed. She has not still got over the refugee problem, and she ought to remind herself that John Howard won an election on that very issue..

Her explanation on the carbon issue too has not been consistent or plausible. She ought to be able to take the Australian voter into her confidence and tell them why she changed an election promise. It cannot be a crime in politics where breaking promises has been the order of the day. The voters would prefer honesty to merely shamming to please them.

Let us look forward to some real politics in the last year before the next General Election..



an impact on the P.M. going by the opinion polls.

Even the public seem to have got tired of this tirade whether it comes from the government or the opposition. Only the politicians do not see it that way.

They keep on hammering on whatever that comes along. They are getting plenty. Now comes the decision on Peter Slipper in which the judge points out the political interference by a liberal heavy weight. Whom the opposition leader does not want to put on the mat. That again is fodder for the government's onslaught.

In a way one could even grant that carbon tax was really an issue for the opposition to go after. The fact that it was an outdated and absurd position to take, is not relevant in that context. In the case of the three individuals being targeted, Abbott, Bishop and Slipper, no decent politician could claim

politicians are refusing to acknowledge.

When they re-assemble after Christmas, there is another of those 'false promises' to take on. Well, prepared and made to order. The government has reneged on its much published guarantee that of giving a surplus in 2012-13.

What is to come in the next few days and weeks would be very interesting and instructive for it is going to showcase to the whole world that Australian brand of politics is made up, of promises and utterances rather than principles and achievements.

The case of a surplus is very interesting because all the economists and pundits are on one side applauding the decision of the decision of the treasurer as the only sensible one. But political wisdom and practicability are not counted in this game of putting down the other party and winning at

