

It was like divine rain that ended a crippling and apocalyptic drought for Ranil Wickremsinghe and his United National Party. The initial gains of the government under his leadership were soon forgotten and it seemed that he had lost all political will to go any further. The bravado and bluff politics of the former regime, now under the guise of the Pohottuwa, gave the illusion of heading for a ruthless reemergence. Politics doesn't tolerate perceived failure and Ranil's terminal death seemed close at hand with even his own party men openly showing disgust. With the failure of the motion, Ranil Wickremsinghe, it appears again, seems to be politically unbreakable. But that, again, is another illusion.

channels of Sirasa were set to transmit the entire session in Parliament out to overseas diaspora persons like me and inside to all Sri Lankans in towns and villagers, who were watching aghast. I believe that had been Kili Maharaja's blunder in judgment as he thought it was going to mark his enemy Ranil Wickremsinghe's night of shame ending the latter's long career in Parliamentary politics. But Ranil's stars are better positioned. He could not be vanquished even during a whole decade by the once powerful authoritarian ruler, Mahinda Rajapakse.

**The Sessions**

Here, in my Australian home, I was watching most of the sessions until the end. I did miss a few good moments, unfortunately; but what I saw and lis-

sanayake the JVP leader, although he illogically led his party to vote for the resolution, did a perfect undressing and unmasking of the JO by his studied exposure of the evils of the Rajapakse regime. It was abundantly clear that the JO was drowned in a holo-caust of Parliamentary argument and invective. TNA leader, Sambandan in his characteristic sober manner, questioned the very validity of the contents of the motion. He pointed out that none of the charges



he has definitely gone wonkers and out of role during the recent days. While his office demands a level of dignity and distance from sectarian strife the President has transgressed that requirement. He is open for impeachment.

# CLOUDS CLEAR WHILE HOPE SPRINGS FOR YAHAPALANAYA

## The blessing of The No-Confidence Motion

**Downward Dive**

Ranil's image had been hurtling down at a rate especially since the results of the local government elections. Complaints were rife that he was indecisive and ambivalent with regard to "catching the thieves and murderers." President Sirisena, his hitherto ally, had turned foe and he was out for Ranil's blood. Rogue elements from the former regime-themselves facing serious charges- had been incorporated to the government. These persons like Nimal Siripala, Susil Prem Jayanth, Anura Priyadarshana Yapa, SB Dissanayake, and Dilan Perera had won the ears of the President and they, aided by Ranil haters Sri Lal Lankatilleka and Maitri Gunaratne, managed to poison the latter.

Sirisena had lost his sense of historical role in the yahapalanaya revolution. Sirisena had even all but forgotten how he got to possess the crown. He began trying to redefine himself in an unsustainable and self-delusionary fashion as the one entrusted to bring in a SLFP government sans corruption. Like King Leo, Maitripala Sirisena went mad and began behaving erratically.

All seemed set for the return of the dark age of Mahinda Rajapakse where we witnessed the dismemberment of the law and justice system, the launching of brutal hit squads reportedly under his powerful brother Gotabhaya Rajapakse, serious accusations of corruption, and the smudging and strangling of our economy with unpayable Chinese loans.

**Poor Judgment**

Right at this point of strength for Pohottuwa, came down a crushing head blow on the latter. It was poor political savvy on the part of the Joint Opposition and its unofficial leader Mahinda Rajapakse to bring up the no confidence motion against the Prime Minister. Firstly, the Joint Opposition failed to garner the votes and lost with a big margin with many of its numbers abstaining. Second, and worse, was the bad exposure the leaders of the JO got in Parliament. The

tened to was most entertaining. What would befall those who hurl stones from glass houses befell the Joint Opposition Pohottuwa guys. Basil Rajapakse, Susil Prema Jayanth, Anura Priyadarshana Yapa, Mahinda Yapa, Wimal Weerawansa, Dayasiri Jayasekera, Nimal Siripala, Gotabhaya, Gammanpilla, Mahinda himself and so many of the former JO bigwigs got it tight as all charges against them were spelled out. While Susil was addressing I could hear cries of, "thell ( petrol) hora!" Susil could merely keep jumping up and down like Jack-in-the Box.

Mangala proved excellent in his exposures of former tyrant Mahinda Rajapakse. Hakeem from the Muslim Congress threw in his strength. Harin Fernando hilariously cut into the whole Pohottuwa lot with a heap of deadly rhetorical punch. He looked around and observed that the "scriptwriters of this failed drama are missing." Anura Dis-

could be specific to the Prime Minister's doings or misdoings. For instance, the failure to act quick enough during the recent Kandy riots cannot be specifically aimed on the PM as the President also shares that blame. The same with the Bond issue, where the Prime Minister was not faulted by the Commission. There were many stakeholders who had to share the blame. President Maitripala Sirisena got a heavy load of attack from the JVP, while the UNP wisely kept silent on that. I cannot remember any past President heaping attack on himself in Parliament as Sirisena did last night. President Sirisena has to be aware and rectify himself soon since

**Ranil's Imperatives and his Historical Moment**

Okay, all the above was right. On the other hand, the most important lessons of this episode have to be learnt by Prime Minister Ranil Wickremsinghe because this is his last lifeboat. First, he must quicken the court proceedings against those accused. This is good time to present the new judicature bill and try a two-third majority.

Second, he must stand firm against

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