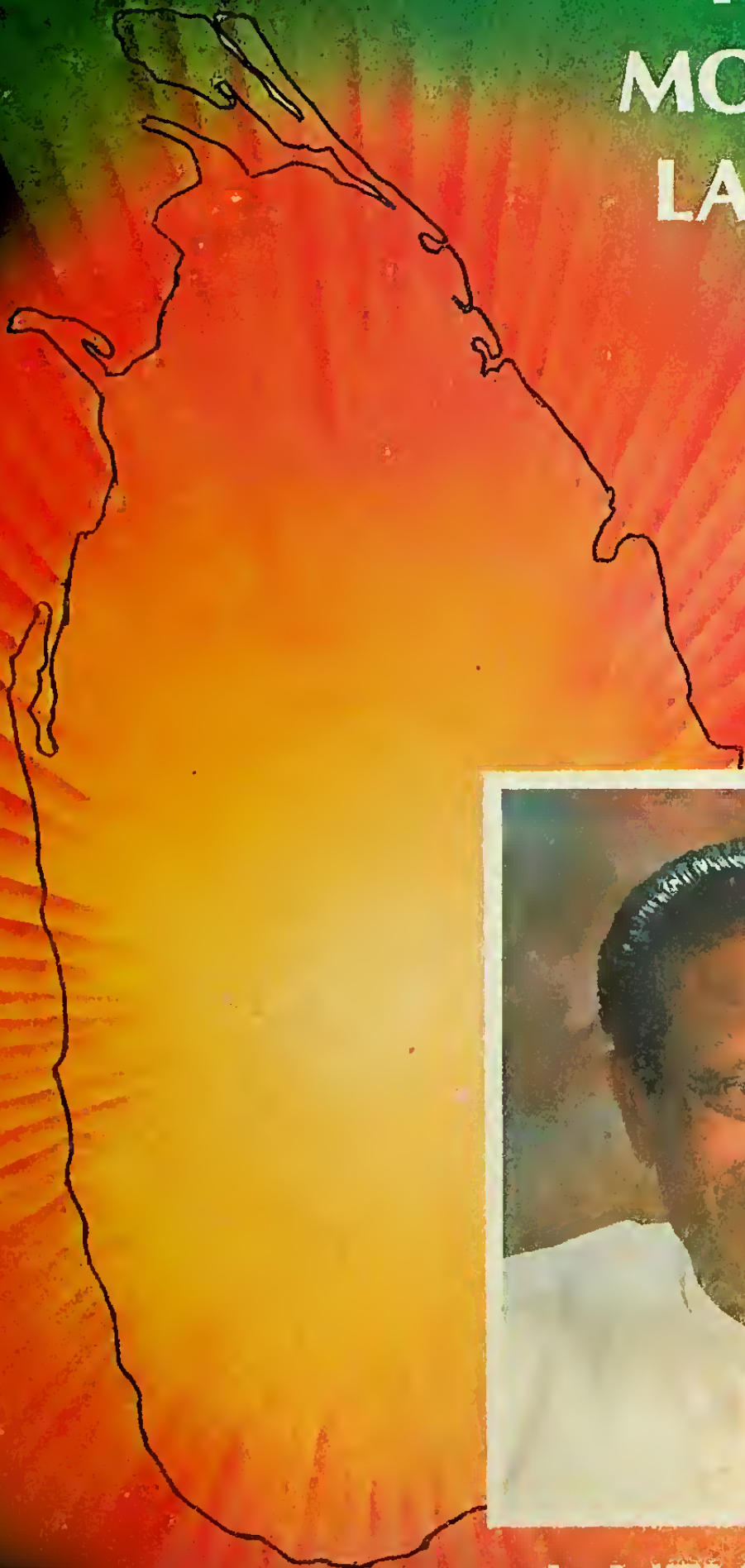


U.N.P. Manifesto 1988

**FOR
MOTHER
LANKA**



**A NEW VISION
A NEW DEAL**

Dear friend,

If I should become the voice of the voiceless millions and be the main instrument for drawing them out of their misery, that alone will I consider my greatest achievement. Mine shall not be a government of arrogance - a government which will wield its power to harass the poor and the innocent.

Mine will be a government of the non-violent man. A government by the people who follow the principles of democracy. This, I shall ensure.

I expect the endorsement of the people for such a government. Of this, I am confident.

You may ask me, why I am so sure. I can only reply that I am the humble servant of the common man. The people are aware of that, I know.

Every mother and father can treat me as her or his own son. Every citizen can consider me a brother and every child will find the affection of a father in me.

Every citizen, Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim or Burgher can accept me as their obedient servant; because, I have inherited humility; because, I have the ability to serve all, irrespective of their political affiliations. I promise that I will serve all sections of the people with dedication and responsibility.

This is my pledge to the Nation.

Yours in Service



R. PREMADASA

25th October, 1988

A NEW VISION

PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARIAT
LIBRARY

A MANIFESTO OF ACTION

FOR INVESTING IN PEOPLE

1. The United National Party has always been investing in people. The people and the nation are our greatest resource. We have been, and are, committed to strengthening them. Dignity and self-respect for the common man, strength and identity to the individual, have been and yet are, our goals. We have A NEW VISION for Sri Lanka. We have a NEW DEAL for our people. What is this new vision? It is a new vision to:

- restore peace
- enforce discipline, and
- alleviate poverty

What is this new deal? It is a new deal to ensure:

- PEACE - through consultation, compromise and consensus;
- DISCIPLINE - through strictly applying the rule of law, restoring moral values and enforcing a code of ethics for all holding public office;
- POVERTY ALLEVIATION - through restructuring the political, economic, social and administrative machinery.

2. The last ten years have been years of growth, of progress and of economic development. We opened out our economy, liberalized social and human relations, built human shelters and houses, diverted rivers and converted arid lands into green fields, settled thousands of families into assured livelihoods, developed hydro-power and energy to light up homes and energize factories, gave school books and scholarships to our children,

provided drinking water to homes that never had this service, opened out new roads into remote hamlets, made credit and capital available for business and enterprise, erected a modern telecommunications network and paved the way for Sri Lanka to keep abreast with the changing world.

3. This is not all. There is much more:
- * availability of goods without queues and shortages
 - * village reawakening, covering every single electorate
 - * participation of youth in nation-building and skills development
 - * Free Trade Zones producing new exports and creating new jobs
 - * a new preventive primary health care system country-wide
 - * thousands of classrooms, laboratories and libraries for the benefit of students
 - * Colombo Port, then the worst, now the best in the region
 - * foreign employment for tens of thousands on an unprecedented scale and recognition of dual citizenship
 - * land grants for millions
 - * near self-sufficiency in rice and other selected foodcrops
 - * a new status and opportunities for women
 - * a leap in exports and jobs in export industries
 - * a streamlined curative health service with scores of new hospitals
 - * strides towards self sufficiency in sugar
 - * the city of Colombo, with many improvements
 - * The Employees' Trust Fund leading to economic power for workers and worker ownership

- a new airport of international standard
- introduction of a national television network
- increased people's participation and new institutions in local government with additional powers
- a competitive bus service for convenience of bus travellers
- new jobs and new exports in export production villages
- new benefits to fisherfolk and new development of inland fisheries
- a pension and social security scheme for farmers
- expansion of university education with new universities for Ruhuna & Batticaloa and an Open University
- unprecedented foreign aid for overall and balanced development of the economy
- a country wide improvement in the management of plantations
- freedom of movement without exit permits
- maintaining mass media without sealing of presses
- decentralization and devolution of government to grass-roots level
- expansion and development of small and medium industries
- a new deal for plantation workers
- a compulsory gratuity scheme for workers
- revitalization of handicrafts
- a nationwide up-grading of livestock
- rediscovering the past through the Cultural Triangle project
- expansion and modernization of the banking system

Through these investments in people, hunger and deprivation, lack of opportunity and frustration, were fast disappearing.

4. Then July 1983 struck.

A HISTORIC WATERSHED

5. It was a watershed in our country's history. The racial and ethnic conflicts that had ravaged our society for nearly three decades burst out with devastating fury.
6. Accompanying this conflict was the violent militant struggle to divide the country. Our armed forces fought gallantly. Many laid down their lives in the struggle to preserve the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country. In the process many innocent lives were lost. Families were broken up and homes were destroyed or uprooted. Fear and insecurity reigned. The rancour and misunderstanding among our peoples, and the resultant conflict which was sustained from abroad, prolonged this struggle. Consequently the development process so vital and necessary to take our country forward, to provide employment for the young, to create prosperity and to give hope for the morrow, rapidly slowed down.
7. We were faced with a threat from within and without. No previous government had ever faced such a challenge. But we did. Not only that. Others faced with lesser challenges, have imposed unspeakable hardships on the people. But, we have not deprived the people of any benefits they enjoyed. Instead, we provided them more and more. Given our record of solid achievements, everyone would concede that we could have done much more, had we not faced such a catastrophe.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

8. Political and economic factors of a regional nature have come to the fore. SAARC, which we helped to establish, is a response and manifestation. It is also an expression of non-alignment. Sri Lanka has identified herself closely with this newly developing factor. Geopolitical considerations have prompted us to establish sounder relationships with our neighbours. The purpose has been and is, to strengthen national sovereignty and to secure territorial integrity. With her unbroken heritage of an ancient culture, contemporary Sri Lanka will play an active role in relevant regional and international processes.
9. The Indo-Sri Lanka Accord was signed to obtain India's assistance to restore peace, law and order in the North and East. In the process, we succeeded in strengthening our good relations with India. Its basis is the geopolitics of the region. It put our relations with her on a new and firm footing. Its sincerity is unquestionable. We will build upon its positive achievements through dialogue and reciprocity.
10. We will seek a Friendship Treaty with India on the lines of the Indo-Soviet Friendship Treaty. If by the time our candidate is elected President the Indian Forces have not left, we will ensure that they are withdrawn. We will soon create conditions where foreign troops become unnecessary. We will also strive determinedly for the de-merger of the North and the East at the earliest opportunity, with the consent of the people of the Eastern Province. The cessation of hostilities and putting an end to violence is an essential pre-condition to restoration of law and order in these areas. We seek a strong mandate from all our people, including those in the North and East, to resolve this problem through consultation, compromise and consensus, while unholding the sovereignty, territorial integrity

A NATION KEEPS FAITH

11. Amidst all these trials and tribulations the nation has kept faith. The commitment of the immense majority of our people to the democratic way of life remains unshaken. Whatever the odds, the people have exhibited great wisdom, courage and patience. With all our other achievements, our greatest triumph is to have sustained the democratic spirit and polity. The United National Party, the party that ushered in freedom to our country, salutes the people for this achievement. No other people in recent history have shown such commitment to human freedom and democracy under such trying times, as the people of Sri Lanka.

THE NEW JOURNEY

12. Our achievements are before you to see. Our problems are also before you to understand. Where do we go from here? Do we go back to queues and shortages? Do we go back to controls and barriers? Do we go back to plantations in shambles? Do we go back to stagnation in housing and construction? Do we go back to justice by ministerial fiat? In other words, do we go back to the past of hopelessness or do we go to a future of hope? Only you can answer these questions.
13. Eleven years ago we started to move this nation into action. The people responded. Today the problems have changed and the vistas have expanded. Our people, particularly the youth, seek a new identity. The United National Party, having achieved so much, has responded to this daunting challenge. We wish to utilize your wisdom and strength to build upon what we have started.
14. Now we have begun a new journey. The new vision guides it. The new deal creates it.

DIALOGUE AND IDENTITY

7

15. We have been having a dialogue with the people to establish a new identity. We have shown a capacity to listen and understand your fears and worries. We have been determined to face the problems of poverty and insecurity head on. We are determined to overcome the unresolved issues of the recent past : unfulfilled aspects of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement, the period of closure of the Universities, a sense of personal insecurity, an increase in corruption, a sense of a lack of caring and sharing, an erosion of values and cultural identity, unsatisfactory fiscal imbalance leading to inflation, disadjustment in the balance of payments, the increase in the debt service ratio and deceleration of economic growth. Since the Universities have been reopened. All casual hands in both the public and local government services are being made permanent.
16. We will establish an effective legal machinery to deter and control bribery and corruption. Through such a machinery, any citizen will have the right to examine the assets of any person holding any office or complained against or suspected of bribery and corruption. Such a machinery will also ensure protection against frivolous and malicious complaints. The procedure will be as follows:
 - (a) Making the declaration of one's (and one's family's) assets and liabilities compulsory according to a set of procedures;
 - (b) Any citizen to have the right to invoke the machinery, in the courts, by making a deposit;
 - (c) Any citizen to examine the assets of the person complained against;
 - (d) Courts to determine whether or not there has been corruption according to the facts of the particular case;
 - (e) The deposit to be paid to the complainant or the defendant, according to the determination and

- (f) Deterrent penalties to be imposed on those found guilty of corruption.

It is pertinent to recall that this procedure was available in our laws in respect of corrupt practices pertaining to election expenses. This has four distinct advantages: (a) no opportunity to make frivolous charges, (b) a person against whom charges have been made can clear his name, (c) those proved guilty will be punished according to the law, and (d) there is an effective and forceful deterrent against corruption.

17. Our society needs to search for a new balance. We need to commit ourselves to a new restructuring. We need to conceptualize the Sri Lankanness of our different peoples. The diversity of peoples must coalesce and unify to produce a richer and larger Sri Lankan identity. See how long it took to create this new mainstream. It was the United National Party that articulated this position. Historically, we have so much that is common. Often person to person relations are warm and cordial. There are the differences. But the differences lie within a basic oneness and interdependence. The experience of the recent past compels all Sri Lankans to acknowledge that our future destinies lie within our own shores.
18. We call upon all Sri Lankans to strive to realize this binding force, this shared identity, within the Constitution. We will wholeheartedly protect the provisions of the Constitution regarding Buddhism, other religions, language and fundamental rights. Let us realize our strength in unity. We call upon the youth to take up this cry. Let us talk to each other to narrow our differences. Through dialogue, let us build up trust. Through trust let us build solidarity and identity. Through solidarity and identity, let us take the nation to development and prosperity. Through development and prosperity let us achieve democratic socialism.

19. We are now in the process of restructuring political systems and relationships. The people are being more fully integrated into the governmental process. There are two aspects to this. First, an enhanced role for Parliament. Second, Provincial Councils and new local government institutions, linking the hamlet to the region.
20. Parliament must create the essential conditions for participatory, consultative and consensual government. This is at the national level. All parties and all Members of Parliament will be active contributors. This new role incorporates all shades of political opinion represented in Parliament.
21. In the restructured system, Parliament not only makes laws and votes money : it becomes an active political instrument and catalyst in the day-to-day affairs of vital national policy-making and its implementation. Let us remember that the Executive Presidency has given itself two strong arms for its functioning. One is Parliament, the other is the Judiciary.
22. We are revamping the present Select and Consultative Committees to help us to do this. For the first time, Cabinet Ministers, members from both sides of Parliament, members of the executive, members of the public, members of professional bodies, members of the media, members of trade unions and anyone else who can creatively contribute to the task in hand, will collectively endeavour to produce common solutions to common problems. These consultations will be informal and friendly. The objective is consensus, not polemic.
23. We will enhance the powers of the Public Accounts Committee and the Committee on Public Enterprises in order to achieve a substantial improvement in the accountability of the use of public funds and resources. Here too we will mobilize the services of knowledgeable and professional people.

FROM THE HAMLET TO THE REGION

24. We have used devolution and decentralization to strengthen people's participation in government. There are three basic layers - the grass roots or the base, the pradeshiya or divisional and the provincial. Each has autonomy in decision-making, in access to resources and in managing its own development.
25. Specific regional strategies will focus on and respond to the felt needs of the people in four key regions :
 - The Dry Zone
 - The Hill Country
 - The Coastal Zone
 - The Wet ZoneBoth historical and natural reasons demand that these regions be treated separately and specifically.
26. We are building up from the base. That is from each individual and householder. Householders form groups and groups form communities. In the new devolved system, each householder and community will decide and act for themselves. The State will support them in their endeavours. Financial resources will be allocated on a pradeshiya basis. Local level development will have special access to funds.
27. The concept of Gramodaya Mandalayas at the grass roots level - at the level of the Grama Sevaka division - was evolved to transcend political, religious, caste, class, linguistic and other divisions at the base. Non Governmental Organizations and voluntary societies at that level were fully incorporated in the Gramodaya Mandala system. This was to obtain the full participation of the people at the base for their own common progress and well being. Now we will strengthen this by devolving this process further to the hamlet level.

ONE POINT FIVE MILLION HOUSES

28. We shall build, expand and advance upon the firm foundation set by the current Million Houses Programme, and the earlier Hundred Thousand Houses Programme to cater to One Point Five Million Families in the next housing programme. This programme will commence in 1989, without any interruption, as soon as the current Million Houses Programme ends. With this giant stride, Sri Lanka will achieve the United Nations Global Shelter target of Shelter for All by The Year 2000, well ahead of that year.

SETTLEMENT COUNCILS

29. It is suggested that a new institutional structure of Settlement Councils be considered to perform the function of examining demands for relief and grievances for redress emanating from any organized group of persons in society, whether large or small. The proposal aims at settling issues through consultative and consensual action, without letting them escalate into confrontation, disrupt social life and waste scarce resources. The Settlement Councils would be ad hoc issue-related institutions, set up when and where there is an issue for resolution. They will be manned by respected and knowledgeable people in public and professional life. The participation of professional bodies and the grieved parties themselves could be obtained. We hope to get this proposal examined by a Select Committee of Parliament, with representation from every political party, to further consider it, and if found useful, to formulate a scheme for setting up such an institutional structure.

CONCILIATION BOARDS

30. We will revive the network of Conciliation Boards to quickly address and acceptably resolve small conflicts at the community level itself. This will improve relations at the community level and contribute to the strengthening of community identity and self-reliance.

ALLEVIATING POVERTY

31. The central issue in restructuring the economy is alleviating poverty. Hence the Action Programme on Poverty Alleviation started recently. Alleviating Poverty is a direct investment in human beings. People-based development is the method.

"People-based Development refers to a particular conceptual framework. It is fundamentally different in form and content from conventional development. In essence, it :

- puts people first, especially the poor and the poorest of the poor.
- considers human beings as the primary resource
- is self-reliant and bottom-up
- is culturally harmonious
- can realize truly islandwide scale and stability

So, People-based Development invests primarily in human beings and mobilizes their wisdom and skill to the full."

[REPORT BY THE HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE OF OFFICIALS ON POVERTY. ALLEVIATION THROUGH PEOPLE-BASED DEVELOPMENT. SESSIONAL PAPER NO.XII - 1988]

This method is equally valid for the public, private and people's sectors.

THE FRUITS OF PEOPLE BASED DEVELOPMENT

The Action Programme on Poverty Alleviation which started in August 1988, gives practical expression to this new perspective. Here are some concrete examples from it:

- * **Agency Banks** : Credit to those hitherto excluded from the formal network: implemented by the two state banks and private banks.
- * **Rural Works Programme** : productive work at hamlet level in all pradeshiya divisions with special focus on the needy.
- * **Youth Training in Skills & Entrepreneurship** : sustainable employment generation for job seekers.
- * **Small & Medium Industries** : rehabilitation of sick industries and development of small and medium scale industries.
- * **Revival of Handlooms** : employment for women with improvements in product design, product quality and marketing.
- * **Primary Health** : full countrywide coverage for the community-based preventive health system.

Several additional programmes are being planned for implementation from 1989. All of them derive from the policy of People-based Development. They are explicit investments in our human base. Some key programmes follow.

INVESTING IN OUR HUMAN BASE

33. Investing in people, is to disinvest in poverty. Poverty puts people last, dehumanises them and wastes our most creative resource, human beings themselves. We must reverse this. We must strengthen our human base. The human base is our social foundation. By directly providing them access to resources, we can transform the passive, the inert and the excluded, into producers, creators and owners of assets. This is what Barber B. Conable, President of the World Bank, said about poverty alleviation on the 27th of September 1988.

“Let me focus now on the central goal of the Bank: the reduction of poverty. Poverty on today's scale prevents a billion people from having even minimally acceptable standards of living. To allow every fifth human being on our planet to suffer such an existence is a moral outrage. It is more: it is bad economics, a terrible waste of precious development resources. Poverty destroys lives, human dignity and economic potential. It must be fought with resolution and overcome with sustainable growth.”

[Address to the Board of Governors of the World Bank Group]

34. This programme of investing in our human base, has three key elements - the family, the resources and the time-period. The period is fixed and is for twenty-four months. A family is reckoned to be five persons. There are also some important secondary elements - counselling, skill and entrepreneurial training and incentivizing. The programme will radically transform the outlooks of the needy - from mere survivors, they become prime movers in their own self-development. Further, this programme will enhance all the existing, ad hoc attempts to mitigate poverty (e.g. food stamps, poor relief, etc.).

35. This scheme will be made operational throughout the island, in a phased manner, starting with the neediest of the needy, until such time as the disbursement of such a large volume of funds is systematized.
36. Basically, each family will have access to a pool of resources. It is worth Rs.2,500/- a month. This pool divides itself into two streams - one directed to investment, the other to consumption.
37. Out of the total pool available each month, the first R.1,042/- must be saved and invested as an obligatory saving/investment. This investment process will continue every month upto the end of the twenty-fourth month. At that point, the total savings accumulated would be Rs.25,000/-.
38. A special counselling service at hamlet level will inform and guide the family. They will help to clarify the choices available regarding a means of gainful and sustained employment. Thus, they will be in a better position to decide for themselves on the most effective use of their investment in the short term. In effect, they will use their pool of capital to lever themselves out of poverty. This process must be completed within the fixed time period of twenty-four months.
39. We now come to the consumption stream. Let us not forget that the needy family has also to live. After making the obligatory saving, they are left with a balance sum of resources worth Rs.1,458/-. This is available for consumption needs. Depending on the wish of the particular family, it may make an additional saving to the investment stream from this resource pool also. The choice of doing so is left entirely to the family.

40. Implementation of the programme requires major restructuring of the administrative machinery at the base level. The primary unit of operation is the hamlet. The restructuring involves two basic changes. First, reorganizing the base through reforms in local level administration to empower the needy groups at hamlet level to decide and execute their own development. This also means that individual families will organize themselves into primary mutual support groups to help and support each other. Second, it means reorganizing the village level field staff so that they play the role of change agents. The change agent is a generalist. Each such change agent will relate to one or more hamlet groups assigned to him or her.
41. This programme will be integrated with several other support programmes. Skill and entrepreneurial training, diverse extension services covering both agriculture and agro-industry, land regularization, credit, housing, nutrition, primary health, child development and other allied programmes will all support and strengthen this core programme.
42. In addition, the Agency Bank system will provide approximately 14,000 agents of banks at the grass roots level to make credit available without colateral to the neediest section of the population to strengthen their production capacities, at interest rates much lower than those charged by money lenders.
43. All this is going to unleash hitherto unprecedented forces of production, the most important being, the human beings themselves. The programme will ensure a major increase in domestic product plus per capita productivity. It will simultaneously ease the twin problems of inflation and unemployment. This will also eff-

ectively address malnutrition in the country and bring untold benefits to underprivileged children and pregnant and lactating mothers in our land. It is only with this investment and strengthening in our human base, that the country as a whole, can reawaken.

44. This historic programme, which will address the poverty issue in Sri Lanka head on, will begin countrywide implementation within one year of our government being elected in December 1988.

THE COST OF LIVING ISSUE

45. How can living costs be kept within affordable limits? Is it by controlling the prices of the vegetable producer, the foodcrop producer, the subsidiary crop producer, the milk producer and the cloth producer? No. If that were to be done, even they will give up their vocations and join the unemployed. What we should do is to follow a different and practical course. We should help the needy to increase their incomes. We have a core programme to achieve this - the programme of investing in our human base. When incomes rise, the purchasing power of the needy also increases. Then, they could afford to pay the prices demanded by producers and suppliers.

NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY

46. A completely restructured National Social Security system will be introduced in phases. The method of providing benefits will be fundamentally changed and improved. The method is self-financing social insurance. Social insurance schemes have many advantages over employer liability schemes, which is the present

predominant method. Under it, both employees and self-employed would continue to finance social security benefits through premia paid into the social insurance fund, from which the benefits would be paid. Thus, short and long term benefits get diversified both quantitatively and qualitatively, and coverage is extended. A health insurance scheme for wage earners can be initiated to realize the goal of Health for All by the Year 2000. Further, the self-employed, migrant workers, farmers, fishermen, craftsmen and others can be brought into it. Through this, the poorest of the poor also benefit because the new strategy frees up government funds to flow to the most needy via schemes aimed at investing in our human base.

PROVINCIAL LAND BANKS

47. Each province will have a ready supply of land for key development needs from their Land Banks. Extents of land are being identified for each of these main uses : village and town expansion, forests and open spaces, industry, agriculture, etc. Therefore, there will be a planned and readily available supply of land.

PEOPLE'S SECTOR

48. We refer to the concept of the People's Sector which was accepted by the people in our 1977 Election Manifesto. However, this sector was not established, and therefore remains inoperative.
49. The concept of the People's Sector is that of a partnership of the private, the public and the co-operative sectors. In the course of development, occasions arise when the three sectors should join together to manage an enterprise. Such a use of the People's Sector is especially needed when an enterprise managed by either the public or cooperative sector, is found to be unsustainable.

50. Before a public enterprise is to be handed over to the private sector, the feasibility of using the People's Sector should be examined as a necessary precondition. Where such an examination reveals that the People's Sector cannot meet the challenge and therefore must be privatized, then it must be handed over to the private sector only on condition that it takes over all assets and liabilities, and that any employees likely to be retrenched, be fully compensated for their loss of service.
51. Retrenchment should be used only as a final option. Where the retrenchment option has to be used, all retrenchees must be paid their full compensation and other allowances on the basis that they have worked up to retiring age.

NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

52. The present Government was the first to give a major role to NGOs in development. Whether big or small, foreign or local, we considered them to be committed to development on the side of needy communities. We will strengthen their role in the future, through mobilizing them as intermediaries of support, especially in local level development.

A NEW PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

53. There is a serious need for a new Public-Private Sector Partnership in our development. There must be a productive cross-fertilization of innovative minds from the two sectors. Clearly there are many lessons to be learnt from breakthroughs won by the Private Sector in many Newly Industrialized Countries in the Third World. Their success stories reflect the effective forging of the new partnership sought by us.

54. It is also necessary to forge a partnership between the informal and formal sub-sectors of the Private Sector itself. At present there is very little linkage. There is every reason to believe that the thousands of informal producers and entrepreneurs could support, and in turn be supported by, the formal and bigger manufacturers and entrepreneurs. Our informal private sector has many potentials and capabilities which are waiting to be mobilized. The success of the programme of export oriented industrialization depends heavily on this partnership.

ECONOMIC POLICY

55. We shall redefine our economic policy to meet the needs of the New Vision and the New Deal. Basically, the goal is growth with equity. But the perceptions and methods are different. We will follow two mutually reinforcing policies towards realizing this goal.
56. Primary growth will take place countrywide in every household, through the strategies of investing in our human base, with people being the prime engine of economic improvement. Primary growth will make men and women into producers, creators and owners of assets. Simultaneously we will harness entrepreneurship and manufacturing skills to support the base, and be in turn supported by it, through setting up, again countrywide, a wide spectrum of secondary and tertiary industries. The mission of this entrepreneurial and manufacturing thrust will be (a) export development, designed to enhance foreign exchange earnings to meet the basic needs of the people, to reduce dependance on foreign aid and to increase the purchasing power of the people, and (b) viable import substitution with emphasis on an agro-based mix of inputs in combination with innovative and

appropriate technology. Labour intensive technologies and methods will be used to the maximum in developing this new industrial base countrywide. The awareness, ingenuity and versatility of our youthful labour force is a superb resource. We feel confident that the fusion of bold political leadership with creative entrepreneurship can successfully wrest many new victories on the economic front.

INDUSTRY

57. We will begin in earnest the process of reaching the status of a Newly Industrialized Country during the next six years. This is a massive challenge to all industrialists, from the very small to the big.
58. Sri Lankan industry must develop at several levels. In the past, the smaller and levels closer to the base, were neglected. They did not have the support they needed. We will encourage committed private sector industrialists to play a key catalysing and generative role in the rapid development of thousands of very small and small industries. Such a development will strengthen the base, increase production, satisfy demand, provide employment and generate other multipliers. Large and successful industrialists have a specific duty and a role to play in this process - they must be teacher, guide and friend to smaller groups and consortia.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

59. We are committed to the rapid development of a sound Science and Technology base, which will help us to overcome poverty, insecurity, waste and pollution. We will do so by giving priority to Science and Technology. A Science and Technology development policy will be formulated immediately, and a programme implemented. We would like this policy and programme to

address, among others, the following issues: that it be action-oriented, that it be useful to the poor in their own self-development, that it strengthens bottom-up people-based development, that it conserves the environment and that it develops vernacular knowledge-fields and systems.

EDUCATION

60. Education is a means and resource for investing in human beings - especially our children and youth. The fact that 60 per cent of our population is young, means that education is doubly important. In our new vision for Sri Lanka, we hope to make our girls and boys, our young women and young men, the brightest, the most creative and the most modern in the land. The real investment is within - in national and humane values, in a moral sense, in caring and sharing for others, especially the most needy.
62. We have devised specific policies for each field of education - school, after-school, religious and youth. We have designed them to be practical and effective. Also, we hope to provide a free mid-day meal to all school children throughout the country.
61. Education is also change - change into the 21st century. As a society, we are reaching out for modernization and technological literacy. But this process of change must be grounded in our deepest native traditions and cultures. The more grounded we are, the more generative we could become. We must relearn the importance of the home, of the family, of moral values, of democratic conduct and of hard work.
63. We will immediately establish an Employment Service which will ensure to each school-leaver and university graduate, gainful employment in keeping with his or her education within six months of his/her leaving school or university. Further, recruitment will be according to merit and ethnic ratios.

ART & CULTURE

64. We will reassert national culture. We will do so by making the search for national cultural values for a modern Sri Lanka, a central issue in cultural work.
65. We will be implementing a well-orchestrated programme for the training of amateur artistes, while eliminating the numerous difficulties encountered by the professional artistes and assisting them in numerous ways so as to embrace all areas of the arts such as Literature, Poetry, Fiction, Journalism, Painting, Sculpture, Film, Drama, Dance, Song and Music. We will be directing the Ministers concerned to enter into a dialogue with the artistes belonging to the different fields of activity and their organizations to prepare a programme of action. The main features of such a programme will be to ensure the dignity and the independence of the artistes. As such assistance should be provided impartially, we will be establishing an independent Foundation with financial assistance from the State and the necessary legal backing. Such a legal and institutional framework would enable us to expand further the limited activities hitherto undertaken by the Tower Hall Theatre Foundation and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT

66. Who provided the opportunity to the ordinary citizen to proceed abroad for employment by breaking the monopoly previously enjoyed by a few privileged families? Because of this, didn't some 238,000 people start earning valuable foreign exchange for the country while joining the category of "haves" from that of "have nots"? They have made remittances of foreign exchange to the value of Rs.10,243 million. Isn't

it the United National Party that gave this privilege? We know that a large number of people who have found employment abroad are unable to travel overseas because they cannot purchase an air ticket. We will rectify this. We will set up a Fund to enable them to purchase their air tickets. They can reimburse the value of those tickets in instalments once they start earning abroad.

SPORTS

67. We see sports as an essential field of human development. The demand for state support and encouragement is ever increasing. Therefore, we will strengthen the process of democratizing and broadbasing sports in both rural and urban areas. We are particularly mindful of extending sports facilities to the underprivileged. Further, the Sugathadasa Stadium Board of Management is preparing a programme to provide financial assistance for the training of amateur sportswomen and men through the controlling bodies of different sports. We will provide state assistance also for the effective implementation of this programme.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESTRUCTURING

68. We will set up a Committee for the Restructuring of the Administration. Employees will be represented in this Committee. It will examine and report within 3 months on (a) restructuring the administration to implement people-based development, (b) a National Wages and Salaries Policy, (c) a scheme of rationalizing public, corporation, local government and co-operative employees, salary structures, and (d) a scheme to remove anomalies in comparable services and salary scales, on the principle of equal pay for equal services.

A NEW DEAL

ADMINISTRATION

A far-reaching restructuring of the administration is an immediate imperative for fulfilling the objectives of the New Vision and the New Deal.

1. Administration will have to adapt itself to play a lead role in translating decentralization and devolution into effective practice.
2. All administrative systems will have to be simplified to enable greater public participation in development activity.
3. Administration will have to be more sensitive and responsive to individual and collective needs of people at the base.
4. Restructure public enterprises to achieve more efficient management levels and optimal use of public funds and resources, together with greater accountability.
5. We will implement a system of disallowances and a surcharge mechanism applicable to all public expenditures made contrary to the law and which are binding on all those public officers, including members of Boards of Directors, who are responsible for such actions.

AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & FISHERIES

AGRICULTURE

Highest priority will be given to policy and programme development to meet the diversified needs of this major sector and all its sub-sectors. Raising productivity and incomes of small producers is an important focus. There is a need for parallel institutional reform.

1. With the resounding success of near self-sufficiency in rice and some selected foodcrops and with the opening up of lands in the Mahaweli and other areas, our future agricultural policy would be (a) to increase the incomes of the small farmers and lift their standard of living, (b) to streamline the input supply system with respect to agricultural credit, fertilizer and quality seed, (c) to increase productivity with the use of appropriate technology, small agricultural implements, new nursery and establishment techniques, (d) to establish farmer organizations at village level for production, planning and marketing and (e) to effect improvements in rainfed cultivation, nutritional standards of the small farmers in particular and the people in general, (f) to provide opportunities for off-farm income and development of export-oriented agricultural produce, and (g) to diversify food-crops, tree-crops and animal husbandry.
2. Reorient agricultural policy and programmes to achieve household food security.
3. Implement a sound agricultural research and extension programme to achieve the above goals.

Forestry will receive due priority on account of its key environmental and economic role.

1. Reforestation will be expanded and intensified to a level where it could offset the current imbalance between extraction and regeneration.
2. The management of existing forests, especially forest reserves and catchment areas, will be made more efficient.
3. Home-based and community-based tree-growing will form the subject of country-wide programmes.
4. Forestry will form an integral part of environmental and habitat-related programmes.

FISHERIES

Policies and programmes successfully tested in the Fisheries Master Plan will be further developed, by incorporating the lessons learnt in implementation. The social development of fishing families and communities is an important focus.

1. We will make Sri Lanka self-sufficient in fisheries.
2. The fisher family will be placed at the centre of their own development process. The role of the State will be to support them to overcome constraints.

3. Marine fisheries, coastal and off-shore, will be further expanded through appropriate mechanization and development of gear.
4. Institutional development will go parallel to the expansion, to ensure the due share of benefits to direct producers. Organization of poor fishermen and fisherwomen is an important task.
5. Inland fisheries will be further developed as an important sub-sector.
6. Training, credit, land, housing, basic services, and community services will be incorporated in the main development programmes.
7. The role of the National Aquatic Resources Agency will be enhanced, so that it could play a more effective short and long term role in the development of aquatic resources.
8. The Coast Conservation Master Plan will be implemented.
9. Infrastructure facilities and improvements to the fishery industry will be provided as necessary.

PLANTATIONS

Plantation agriculture will be both sustained and changed to increase production and yield surpluses to the economy, to diversify in order to sustain the basic needs of resident and non-resident households and to develop productive linkages with the non-plantation sector, thereby playing an important role in regional development.

1. Improvements to the productive base will be sustained and intensified by replanting, new planting and soil improvement measures. Thus, per hectare yields will continue to be pushed up.
2. Diversification will be an important focus. It includes diversifying land use as well as crops. Development of new hamlets and villages on peripheral lands as well as enrichment of natural habitat through reforestation and fuelwood provision are among the processes involved.
3. The programme of developing plantation worker settlements will be continued and expanded. The policy objective is to creatively respond to internal needs of worker families. This would involve upgrading of existing settlements, accommodation and provision of basic services as well as the creation of new settlements. Social development via community organization, skills training, environmental health, immunization, nutrition, non-formal education, credit and savings, etc. will be emphasized.
4. Rehabilitation of all types of plantation crop manufacture and processing will be the subject of special programmes.
5. The policy and organization for export promotion and marketing will be revamped.

LIVESTOCK

The tradition of integrated crop and animal husbandry will have to be readapted to meet the urgent development needs of our rural and urban human base.

1. Livestock development policy will focus on upgrading draught animals as well as dairy cattle through active support and encouragement to small and other producers.
2. Areas with foundation herds are being prioritized.
3. Livestock will be developed as an effective means of income generation.
4. Organization of producers, provision of credit, provision of animal health services, provision of milk collection, storage and processing services, establishment of marketing infrastructure, etc. will be expanded to meet an increased demand.

CULTURE

We consider cultural development to be an essential part of social and economic development. It is through the creative forces of art and culture, that Sri Lanka will discover the values for living and creating her own history. The role of the State is to support all cultural workers and activities on as broad a basis as possible.

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1. We will immediately draft a National Cultural Policy for a modern Sri Lanka, which will, inter alia, help strengthen the development of a Sri Lankan identity. This larger identity is a unity of the identities of the Sinhalese, the Tamil, the Muslim, the Burgher and other smaller national communities.

The National Cultural Policy will serve as a guide to the achievement of national unity, in the interpretation of the past for the present, for the combination of the external factor with the primary internal factor, in the process of creating and refining cultural values thereby preventing their erosion, in the attainment of excellence in art and culture, in offering guidelines to the mass media and in strengthening the independence, autonomy and status of artists and cultural work-

... will support and encourage the Buddhist temple, the Hindu Kovil, the Muslim Mosque, the Christian Church and other faiths to handle the task of imparting religious values and moral education, particularly to our younger generation.

... will revitalize all Sri Lankan national literatures, past and present, through the instrument of the proposed Sahithya Mandala Act, and other means of state support and recognition.

... will expand and sustain the Central Cultural Institute to complete the work of the Cultural Triangle Project and to begin work on other new projects with a pre-eminent historical value.

... will implement programmes of training and supporting amateur artists, and ease constraints imposed by professional artists in all artistic fields, without impinging on their freedom and independence. Towards this end, we will set up an Independent Foundation.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

TRADE

Policies will restructure internal and external trade to achieve expansion and efficient distribution. While productivity of householders and small producers will rise, there will be many linkages and trade-offs with export-led manufacturing and enterprise.

1. Reinforce the machinery of the newly created Fair Trade Commission to deal with monopolies, mergers and anti-competitive practices.
2. Rehabilitate sick industries with priority being given to export-oriented and import substitution projects.
3. Prepare and adopt a Tourism Plan.
4. Develop existing and self employment projects, particularly cottage industries, small workshops, garages, etc. and expand existing production capacities.
5. Restructure the whole marketing system for rural produce to ensure producer-determined prices, inclusive of storage and transport systems. Upgrade the network of rural *poilas* as a component of improved marketing.
6. Diversify exports by promoting non-traditional produce such as foliage plants, aquaculture and aquatic foliage, jewellery including costume and imitation jewellery, mining, ceramic, coir-based industries, handicrafts, handlooms and garments, wood-based industries, etc.
7. Establish a Trade Development Authority (integrating allied government agencies) for promotion of trade, counter trade and entrepot trade.

8. With the success of the presently implemented trade policy in terms of availability of goods at competitive prices, make suitable adjustments for more import substitution with comparative advantage.

INDUSTRY

Policies to achieve countrywide industrial development will be implemented. Starting with the rural and urban base, both formal and informal, secondary and tertiary industries will be developed linking home-based producers, through supportive intermediaries, with larger enterprises. Twin goals are exports and competitive import substitution.

1. Introduce a new programme of industrial reform, coupled with a more rationalized tariff structure, to increase the role of the manufacturing sector with emphasis on labour-intensive viable import substitution, particularly in small and medium sector industries, together with the overhaul of the state-owned indigenous banking system and the reinforcement of export orientation.
2. Create industrial centres on a more balanced regional basis with the active participation of Provincial Councils.
3. Implement a dynamic export marketing strategy with centres in important markets abroad.
4. With the success in the FTZ at Katunayake in terms of investment and employment creation, develop the FTZ at Biyagama and create another at Koggala for the South. Ensure a better quality of life for workers with increased wages and more amenities including accommodation.

5. Develop industrial processes and technologies which are energy conserving, which produce minimum waste and which can recycle waste.
6. With the transformation of former state-owned textile mills into successful enterprises, promote and broadbase the textile industry, with emphasis on improvement of quality of yarn and cloth, satisfactory maintenance of machinery and equipment, provision of training to employees and offering of incentives to workers.
7. Strengthen the programme to convert powerlooms and factories into more labour intensive and profitable enterprises through accelerated modernization.
8. Modernize the handloom industry under revival to create employment opportunities and also to rehabilitate those former producers who have been handicapped by competition from imported products.
9. We will continue to strengthen the process of revitalizing all aspects of the craft sub-sector, including among others, its expansion, its profitability, availability of raw materials, retention of standards, access to credit and social security.

FINANCE

Policies will be restructured to ensure equity with rapid growth achieved through making the currently underutilized human and material base, a leading production sector, and which will be complemented by a secondary manufacturing base.

1. Make efforts to have a reasonable fiscal balance, with consequential impact on a consistent fiscal-monetary mix and towards adjustment of the balance of payments, thereby contributing to curtailment of both the rate of inflation and the debt service ratio.
2. Develop the Stock Exchange Market as planned by the Securities Council with (a) necessary incentives, (b) the broad-basing of private sector companies, and (c) creating supplementary institutional back-up.
3. Introduce a Domestic Credit Insurance Scheme, coupled with new laws on the recovery of debt, for development of entrepreneurial skills, venture capital and mobilization of domestic resources.
4. Introduce a Deposit Insurance Scheme for depositors with commercial banks and finance companies.
5. Make public companies accountable to Parliament when government equity participation is more than 50 per cent.
6. Increase the power of the Public Accounts Committee and the Committee on Public Enterprises to strengthen them to ensure accountability for public funds and resources.
7. Establish a Money and Banking Commission to review the whole financial and banking sector with a view to gearing it to meet new and dynamic challenges of development.
8. Establish a Taxation Commission for working out the guidelines for setting up a development-oriented tariff and tax structure.

9. Set up Export Development Bank to implement refinance schemes for export-related activities, to encourage domestic production for export, and to provide credit to the export sector, particularly to those in the small and medium export industries.

PEOPLIZATION

This is a joint sector of the public, private and co-operative, and will be implemented for the first time.

1. Peoplization will be used as a strategy to achieve management recovery and rehabilitation in the case of failing enterprises belonging to the public and co-operative sectors.
2. Peoplization will safeguard the rights and benefits enjoyed by workers prior to reorganization.
3. Where privatization is found to be the most satisfactory option, it should be done without retrenchment of workers. Retrenchment should be resorted to only as a final option.
4. Where the final retrenchment option is used, it should offer full compensation to retrenchees on the basis of their having worked till retirement age.

PLANNING

Planning policy will be strengthened by making it more responsive to needs of the majorities of people and to the creation of surpluses for growth.

1. Implement a Five Year Economic Plan, 1990 – 1994, based on an annual growth target of more than 5 per cent and with assimilation of information and data in consultation with all agencies concerned including Provincial Councils.
2. Rationalize the use of foreign aid and grants for a well planned development with (a) effective monitoring, (b) reduced dependence on aid, and (c) a planned repayment programme.

CO-OPERATIVES

The efforts at achieving an all-round and rapid improvement in the conditions of the needy, necessarily means a more developmental and people-oriented role for this sub-sector.

1. Co-operatives will have to define a role for themselves as catalysts and agents in the Poverty Alleviation Programme.
2. Co-operative Credit Societies have an important developmental task in organizing and empowering needy families and groups to manage their own economic affairs through effective credit and savings.
3. The primary role of the State in the development of the Co-operative Movement is to guide and support co-operators to be effective and responsible in self-management and self-development.

EMPLOYMENT

Job-creation is being given the highest priority. It is the single most important criterion in public and private sector project design. The neediest of the needy and the needy are being provided gainful employment and access to assets. An estimated 3.7 million young people will join the labour force by the year 2000. In the short term, job-creation and job-satisfaction are being attained through people-based and labour-intensive policies. In the medium and longer terms, we will restructure the economy in three directions - development of secondary and tertiary sectors in agriculture, an export-oriented industrialized economy and self-employment.

1. Establish an Employment Service which will ensure to each school-leaver and university graduate gainful employment in keeping with his/her education within six months of his/her leaving school or the university.
2. Expand the *Saragam* or Rural Works Programme, which is a three year employment plan, to offer productive work on a large range of people-based and labour-intensive projects with a distinct local content.
3. All current employment-creating programmes will give priority in worker selection to food-stamp receiving families, where not even a single member is receiving a regular income.
4. Recruitment for state employment will be on the basis of three main criteria, namely merit, basic qualifications and ethnic ratio.

5. Policies in agricultural, industrial and technological development will emphasize and exploit their employment—generative and labour—absorptive potentials to the full.
6. Avenues for overseas employment are being encouraged and expanded in keeping with the manpower demands of Developing and Developed Worlds.
7. Foreign and industrial investment is being linked to generating employment, use of local materials, provision of housing for employees by employers, energy—savings, etc.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Sri Lanka's foreign policy has been made an effective instrument for the realization of our national interests in the economic, social, cultural and other fields. The success of our foreign policy is seen in the high esteem and recognition that Sri Lanka enjoys in the International Community. We will continue to pursue this foreign policy.

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1. We will continue to follow an independent foreign policy which is opposed to imperialism and colonialism in all their manifestations and which seeks to preserve and protect the sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and freedom of Sri Lanka. We shall not permit any interference by foreign countries in our internal or external affairs or allow the independence or security of our country to be threatened in any way.
 2. We will support the principles of Non—Alignment which were first adopted at the Afro—Asian Conference at Bandung in 1955, at which one of the sponsors was the UNP Administration at the

time. We steered the Non-Aligned Movement from 1977 to 1979 as its Chairman and ensured its cohesiveness and effectiveness.

3. In the quest for international peace and security we will continue in our efforts towards the realization of general and complete disarmament. We shall continue to pursue our initiatives, among others, to establish a World Disarmament Authority and a Border Dispute Commission. We will continue to play a central role to establish a peace zone in the Indian Ocean.
4. In recognition of the fact that mutual understanding and lasting friendship and co-operation with our immediate neighbours is a cornerstone of our country's foreign policy, we have maintained and strengthened the close bonds of friendship, understanding and co-operation and will continue to further consolidate these relations. We actively participated in the creation of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation [SAARC] and will continue to support the Organization to achieve greater regional co-operation.
5. We will continue to give unqualified support for the principles and objectives embodied in the UN Charter and support both the UN and its Agencies in the efforts to :
 - (a) preserve peace throughout the world;
 - (b) eradicate completely colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, racism and big power hegemonism; and
 - (c) introduce a New International Economic Order.

6. We have always extended our unqualified support to Third World countries in their struggle against imperialism and colonialism. We have steadfastly supported the people of South Africa in their fight against the racist regime, the Namibian people in their demand for independence and the Palestinian people in their struggle for return to their homeland and for the restoration of their legitimate rights. We have condemned aggression and invasion in all their forms and supported all just causes. We shall continue to do so.

7. As a result of pursuing a foreign policy which places emphasis on greater understanding and friendship with the international community, we have been able to obtain economic assistance on an unprecedented scale for our massive development programmes, and to attract substantial foreign investment. We will continue to follow the same policy of friendship towards all and enmity towards none to ensure their active support and co-operation for our future development programmes. We will also continue to give our fullest support to measures designed to establish a more equitable distribution of the world's resources, through a more fair system of international trade, the establishment of stable commodity price schemes and fair export prices as well as mutually acceptable debt servicing mechanism.

8. We have vigorously supported all efforts of the Third World to eliminate poverty and backwardness that are now its characteristics. In pursuance of this objective we successfully carried through our initiative to have the United Nations declare 1987 as the International Year for Shelter for the Homeless and thereby focussed the attention of the international community to the problems of homelessness. As a result, millions of homeless throughout the world have benefited from this initiative.

9. Our relations with countries in the Middle East have been strengthened by the establishment of diplomatic missions in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Oman. As a result of our friendly relations with countries in the Middle East, we have been able to find employment for over 230,000 Sri Lankans in the Middle East as against 20,000 prior to 1977. We will continue to explore all possibilities to find further employment for Sri Lankans overseas.

HABITAT

HOUSING & SHELTER

We shall build, expand and advance upon the firm foundation set by the Million Houses Programme, and the earlier Hundred Thousand Houses Programme. The next housing programme, already announced, will be for ONE POINT FIVE MILLION FAMILIES in the country.

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1. The ONE POINT FIVE MILLION HOUSES PROGRAMME (OPFMHP) will simultaneously attack the twin problems of SHELTER and POVERTY. First, it will provide basic and appropriate shelter to ALL THE NEEDY in the villages, towns and plantations: second, it will simultaneously take steps to get them out of poverty.
 2. The policy basis of the OPFMHP will be support – that is, the State supporting the shelter and poverty alleviating initiatives of the needy.
 3. The OPFMHP will be a national housing programme of both the private and public sectors.

4. The OPFMHP will comprise several sub-programmes for each key shelter sector.
5. There will be specific programmes for each of the following segments of the population, whose need for housing is imperative:
 - 5.1. Neediest of the Needy : those with no affordability at all
 - 5.2. The Needy : those who can afford small housing loans
 - 5.3. Plantation Workers : They will be incorporated into mainstream housing development in villages on estate land in the peripheries
 - 5.4. Middle Income Groups : those with moderate affordability
6. For the first time, private sector employees and public servants will have access to credit for land and housing through the use of EPF/ETF funds as security.
7. The OPFMHP complements policy initiatives in Regional Development, Local Government and Urban Development

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

A clear-cut URBAN POLICY has been worked out by the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Construction. It derives primarily from the internal experience of urbanization and ruralization in Sri Lanka. This policy response enables the country to effectively direct and manage its urbanization process consistent with post-colonial development needs.

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1. The policy focuses on the needs of Sri Lankan producers, small and big. Its aim is the inter-related development of the total hierarchy of urban centres. It also complements and strengthens our hierarchy of rural centres.
 2. There are separate development strategies for each level of urban and rural centres in the national hierarchy. The role of small and intermediate urban/rural centres receives special attention. Each such centre produces its own development plan to facilitate desirable change.
 3. In Colombo, inter alia, the policy continues the ongoing process of upgrading and integrating all low income settlements [slums and shanties] into the mainstream of the formal city. Thus, the separation between formal and informal sectors gets bridged and the city is capable of new organic growth.

ENVIRONMENT

The need for environmental protection and management is duly recognized in the Constitution. Priority has been given to the establishment of the much needed legal and institutional framework.

The broad policy framework on the protection and management of the environment in the next two decades as well as a National Conservation Strategy has been formulated and is being implemented.

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1. Priority areas such as deforestation, soil erosion, coast erosion and water pollution have been selected for urgent action.
 2. Environmental Impact Assessment is to be done for all development projects.

3. Environmental education and environmental awareness programmes are being strengthened and expanded.
4. Expansion of environmental monitoring facilities including laboratory facilities is under way.
5. Research and study on environmental issues at the micro and macro levels is in progress.
6. Adoption of appropriate and stable environment policies which are supportive of development and based on the principles of sustainability of resources and carrying capacity of the environment.
7. Institutional reforms will be introduced to meet the need for inter-disciplinary approaches to environmental planning and management.
8. Strengthening of existing legislation on environmental protection and enforcement thereof, more accurately with a view to introducing preventive rather than curative measures.
9. Introduction of environmental specifications into import policies such as imported products to meet the environmental standards appropriate to both conditions in importing countries and specifications and standards in exporting countries.
10. Promotion of training programmes for the production and use of agro-chemicals in order to ensure their cost-effectiveness as well as to minimize ecological damage and health hazards.

HUMAN RESOURCES

EDUCATION, YOUTH & SPORTS

Human beings are our most valuable resource. Sixty per cent of our population is young. Their values, attitudes, skills and commitment determine the tempo and quality of societal and economic life. While we reach out for technological literacy, we must retain our national identity.

SCHOOL EDUCATION

1. Eleven years of compulsory general education for all students and a concentrated effort to further increase the rate of student participation.
2. Continue the present programme of reducing area-wise disparities among schools by :
 - provision of buildings, equipment and facilities
 - rapid development of schools in plantation areas
 - emphasizing teaching of science, mathematics and English in all schools.
3. Bring information technology to the schools system by introducing computers to all Advanced Level classes.
4. Ensure that the school system is wholly manned by trained teachers by clearing the backlog of untrained teachers.
5. Further improve the standard of teachers professionally and ensure remuneration consistent with the improvement in standards.

AFTER-SCHOOL EDUCATION

6. Provide vocational and technical training to all school-leavers, in a way that they will be able to attend college from their own homes, by
 - providing "shilpayathanayas" for craft training
 - establishing Regional Colleges in all districts affiliated to Universities offering both mid-level managerial and technical courses for industry, commerce and agriculture as well as higher education courses permitting subsequent transfer to Universities.
7. Promote a system of Recurrent Education which will enable
 - people to enter the education system from time to time
 - those with a technical qualification or employment experience to enter higher education
 - Armed Forces personnel to acquire vocational and higher educational qualifications.
8. Impart new and needed skills development to 200,000 youth through a three-year programme of training called INVESTMENT IN YOUTH.
9. Establish a Research Fund for universities to provide paid work opportunities in research, especially during the transition from graduation to getting a job.

10. Implement the remaining proposals of the all party Parliamentary Select Committee appointed to examine university – related problems for (a) greater degree of autonomy, (b) student participation in management and welfare activity, (c) recreational and literary facilities, (d) more accommodation facilities, (e) employment orientation courses, (f) a good working knowledge of English, and (g) improvement of the course and content of 'swabahasa' studies.
11. Promote more facilities for education in the plantation sector with provision of more teachers, buildings and equipment.
12. Establish a National Academy of the Arts in order to promote excellence in the Arts.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

13. Encourage further the religious education movements of all religions in consultation with religious dignitaries and laymen.
14. Develop a scheme to associate clergy and religious building, of all religions in pre-and primary school education, inclusive of supplementary feeding of children.

YOUTH

15. A separate Funding Programme for Youth Clubs and other youth organizations to further encourage village level youth activities.
16. A National Youth Leadership Programme to provide opportunities for youth with leadership abilities to come to the fore-front at Pradeshiya, Provincial and National levels.

17. Encouraging youth participation in nation building by National Service either in the Defence Service or Community Service.

SPORTS

18. Improve standards in selected sports to Asian and/or International levels.
19. Provide facilities for sports at pradeshiya level by means of Pradeshiya Sports Schools, enabling larger numbers to develop talents and careers in sports.

WOMEN

The role of women in society and especially in development has been enhanced. Their rights, welfare and special interests have been recognized. Opportunities have been offered for women to participate in every sphere of work and at high levels of government and the judiciary. These policies and programmes will be strengthened.

1. Create conditions where the remaining prejudices and discriminatory attitudes against women will be rapidly eroded.
2. Provide access to larger numbers in all key state services, backed by special programmes of training.
3. Provide effective social security to women in women-headed households.
4. Develop programmes for plantation women that will enable them to enter the mainstream of rural life.
5. Develop programmes of savings and credit, especially catering to needs of women.

6. Implement a policy to enable more active participation by women in community affairs at village and pradeshiya levels.

INFRASTRUCTURE/ SERVICES

ELECTRICITY

Major improvements in coverage will be made. Viability will be improved. The issue of lowering energy costs to make it affordable to many varied types of users, will be especially addressed.

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1. Provide electricity for every village by the year 2000, with the expansion of the grid electricity distribution system, introduction of a new Rural Electrification Project commencing in 1989 for a duration of 4 years and introduction of alternative energy sources such as solar photovoltaic, wind generation, biogas and gasifiers.
 2. Provide adequate electricity to industrial, commercial and domestic purposes at the lowest possible prices. Action already taken to increase the level of reliability of electricity power supply.
 3. Through provision of standardized wiring diagrams and financial assistance from banks, access to domestic electricity supply at affordable prices will be increased.

ROADS

A planned and balanced programme of road maintenance and development will be implemented. Labour intensive methods will be maximized

1. Continue the massive development of highways connecting up far-flung growth centres in different parts of the country.
2. Open up more new roads and upgrade footpaths on unmotorable roads in the village.
3. Use labour intensive methods of making and maintaining roads.
4. Offer opportunities to the private sector to participate in road rehabilitation and maintenance activities.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

While expanding access to cover all parts of the country, there will be an overall improvement in the service of the existing network.

1. Accelerate plans already underway to fulfill the rapidly growing demand for telecommunication facilities, thus making a dynamic contribution to the development process.
2. Provide telephones to every applicant by 1995.

TRANSPORT

While making overall improvements in the existing services through better management they will cater to the varying user demand from different parts of the country.

1. Implement further the plan of action now underway (a) to set up bus operation and body building joint venture projects in several areas with local and foreign collaboration, (b) to restructure the ownership of private buses with a view to broadbasing operations, and (c) to indemnify bus owners against damage caused by civil disturbances.
2. Implement the railway electrification programme from Kalutara South to Polgahawela with a connection from Negombo joining the main line at Ragama, and the extension of the existing railway system from Matara to Badulla through Kataragama.
3. Increase operational efficiency and improve management standards in the railways.
4. Improve the existing passenger services provided by public transport to achieve greater efficiency, cost-effectiveness and reliability.
5. Develop the ports of Galle and Trincomalee in the ensuing years, for both industrialization of the hinterland areas and attracting foreign investment.

IRRIGATION

Policy on irrigation will be reinterpreted in the light of many decades of past and more recent experience to get the best possible return for as many producers as possible.

1. Priority will be given towards maintaining the efficiency of the existing national network at a high level.
2. Water management will be a key issue and a major programme.
3. Village and minor irrigation will be developed as a vital community-based operation to provide domestic water and retain moisture levels, apart from its irrigation capability.
4. Ensure that investments already made in the Mahaweli and other major works yield the maximum possible social and economic benefits in the short to medium term.
5. All phases of irrigation – construction and maintenance – will be made participatory by actual users.
6. The impact of irrigation on environment and land quality will be assessed and monitored.
7. Systems prone to floods will be harnessed for irrigation.

LABOUR

The National Social Security Scheme will set in motion a process of all-round improvement in labour relations. They will be both qualitative and quantitative.

1. We will respond positively to the new and expanded demand for training, guidance and support arising from the Poverty Alleviation Programme.
 2. We will reform laws relating to industrial disputes based on the principle of compulsory conciliation, which will also expedite settlement of disputes.
 3. We accept the principle of paying a reasonable minimum basic allowance for all those coming under the category of trainees or apprentices.
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LAND

Highest priority will be given to land policy. Diverse needs will be matched with varying resources of land. Maintenance of soil fertility and environmental sustenance are important. Supply of land for development will be facilitated.

1. Implement the recommendations of the Land Commission of 1987.

2. Immediately identify and set up Provincial Land Banks in the nine provinces to readily supply land for all the varied needs from the area.
3. Immediately implement a programme of regularizing all outstanding encroachments. Simplify procedures, so that this could be completed in 1 1/2 years.
4. Review land policy without impairment to productivity to alleviate the problem of acute landlessness.
5. Implement a unified land and human settlements development policy for landless villagers and plantation workers in the plantation areas. The concept is to have a single – instead of a dual – process of development for both these target groups.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government will be a vital sector in the devolved and decentralized implementation of development and service-related activities. It will serve as an arena for autonomous local action, which is affordable, participatory and appropriate.

1. Local Government is being reformed and strengthened to enhance its democratic and developmental capability.
2. Thus, Local Government will become a key medium of decentralized development.

3. Necessary Local Government initiatives are being taken to further devolve and decentralize authority and decision-making. Thereby, every householder and every community can decide and act to further their own development – as individuals or groups or communities – with active support from the State and voluntary sectors.
4. Development resources will be allocated on a pradeshiya basis using the criteria of (a) population, (b) area-specific needs, and (c) degree of underdevelopment and poverty. Thus, all communities in the country, from the grassroots up to the provincial level, are assured of access to development resources.
5. A pool of additional funds is being made available for local level development on a system of matching grants. Access to matching grants will depend on actual performance of local development efforts by local communities.
6. Pradeshiya Sabhas, Municipal Councils and Urban Councils will develop a new institutional machinery to achieve co-operation, consultation and consensus among their members.
7. It is a new responsibility of Local Government to facilitate the organization and empowerment of needy groups on a *gangoda* or hamlet basis, so that they have access to resources and support which have been hitherto unavailable.

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

INDIGENOUS MEDICINE

Indigenous medicine plays a key, though muted, role. It keeps our people, especially the rural majority healthy, at an affordable cost. We are committed to achieving a new level of development in this medical system, commensurate to its hitherto untapped potential and to popular demand.

1. Our policy will continue to develop and strengthen Indigenous Medicine as a parallel medical system, with the focus clearly being on both preservation, revitalization and development of traditional methods and practices.
2. Through the overall policy of development and strengthening the theory and practice of the system, we will raise the status and the level of expertise of Indigenous Medical Practitioners.
3. We will establish Ayurvedic Dispensaries in every Pradeshiya Sabha area and as many Ayurvedic Hospitals as possible in every district.
4. We will increase the priority given to Research into Indigenous Medicine in order to strengthen both its education and practice.
5. We will develop a countrywide programme of cultivating medicinal plants, trees and herbs to increase domestic production of indigenous medicines and to increase the incomes of the growers.

HEALTH

There has been a massive investment in the health infrastructure of the community, consisting of manpower development, preventive programmes and curative services. As a result, health indices continue to improve. Amidst this generalized improvement, certain rising negative trends are also clearly noticeable – malnutrition, wasting, stunting, malaria diarrhoea, sexual diseases, manpower shortfalls, maintenance of hospital services, costs of health-care, etc. Therefore, the goal of policy and programmes will be to effectively overcome these gaps and deficiencies.

1. Primary emphasis will be on preventive health. Environmental health will receive high priority. Primary health care will network out throughout the country. Community mobilization will be pursued. Gramodaya Health Centres will span out countrywide.
2. Changes in institutional thinking and strategy will be a prime focus in order to make more effective use of the existing manpower and facilities to overcome deficiencies and gaps.
3. Immunization programmes for children against the six communicable diseases will be implemented to reach 100% coverage and sustained thereafter.
4. Malaria will be effectively controlled.
5. The spectrum of health institutions starting with the Gramodaya Health Centre at the base and extending to the general hospitals at the apex will be more effectively managed and maintained to offer a better quality of service and care.

6. Mobilize the services of health personnel outside the public sector, in meeting community health needs.
7. We will take necessary steps to protect our people from foods, drinks and vices, harmful to their health and wellbeing.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Social development policy will play an important role in bringing large numbers of deprived families back into development. The existing infrastructure will be readapted to meet new needs. Productive absorption of the handicapped, the disabled and rehabilitation of refugees are major tasks.

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1. Social development policy will be redefined to be responsive to the needs generated by a country-wide programme of poverty alleviation.
 2. Specific programmes targetted on the disabled, the handicapped, street children, young and juvenile offenders, etc. will be sustained and improved to make them productive and useful to society and themselves.
 3. Non-Governmental Organizations will be mobilized in a big way in implementing these programmes.
 4. Action-research into social development theory and practice will be expanded to serve as a resource for developing our own social work theory.

5. Training of social workers in the state, community and voluntary sub-sectors will be a major task.
6. An effective capability for disaster preparedness will be built up.
7. Rehabilitation policy and programmes will effectively support all those affected by subversion and ethnic violence by paying appropriate compensation, by getting them back to productive life in the shortest possible time, by integrating rehabilitation with development and by designing special insurance schemes to cover individuals and institutions from connected risks.

