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26.07.2023

## Press Release

It is evident that the all-party conference convened by the President to address the North-East problem is merely a part of the President's regular political process. The President's approach should be founded on unwavering integrity.

The issue of the Northeast has been a longstanding one, spanning several decades and multiple governments, yet no practical solution has been devised to date. The key to finding solutions lies in acting with utmost good faith.

The current exercise by the President appears to be a program aimed at achieving short-term political gains rather than a genuine implementation driven by a sincere desire to resolve the matter.

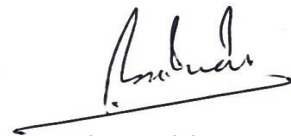
It is no secret that the President had numerous opportunities to intervene and offer solutions before this point, yet reasonable and acceptable efforts in this direction were not made until a year after assuming office. This makes it evident that the President's recent actions are motivated by short-term political interests.

While the President is urging the opposition to respond to the North-East issue, it is, in fact, the government's responsibility to present a proposal to solicit a response. Without such a proposal, seeking the opposition's opinions becomes pointless. To genuinely seek a solution, the President should collaborate with all parties representing the government and present a mutually agreed-upon proposal. This responsibility squarely lies with the government.

Furthermore, the government's position is ambiguous in the absence of a concrete proposal. It is essential for the government to declare its proposals and position before soliciting the opposition's input. The opposition stands ready to fulfill its responsibilities once the government presents its proposals.

The crux of finding solutions to this problem lies in promptly establishing democratic provincial councils composed of representatives elected by the people. Gathering the opinions and ideas of democratically elected members in the decentralization of power is crucial. Presently, the provincial council has been under executive leadership without a single elected member for four and a half years, undermining democracy and obstructing the decision-making process regarding power distribution.

To overcome this hurdle, it is imperative to reestablish all democratically elected provincial councils and conduct necessary discussions to address the issue effectively.



**Ranjith Madduma Bandara.**  
General Secretary,  
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