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## The 3-year plan of the Unity Government

(FT.LK) - It is reported that the Government will unveil a three-year development program on 4 September to coincide with the second anniversary of the formation of the National Unity Government. The next budget would be formulated in keeping with this program. This would be a three-year program to be implemented within a frame of eight years.

This is extremely good news. The Sri Lankan economy is drifting like a ship without a rudder. It could hit the rocks very soon, drowning all of us, except the commission earners, unless it is manoeuvred properly by employing the best principles and techniques of national planning.

The people are, however, very sceptical of plans. They have been treated to development visions, Chinthanas, strategies and plans, which became obsolete even before the ink ran dry. The only saving grace is that the proposed exercise is to be steered by Eran Wickramaratne for whom there is very high regard among professionals.

**The nine Cs**

For the planning exercise to be successful it must be based on certain concepts and principles. I wish to share briefly the concepts and principles I have identified for the purpose of engaging MPA students, at the PIM, in interactive learning exercises on development planning. The Nine Cs diagram is reproduced on this page. It was developed to provide mental hooks for students to remember the most important features of good planning. They are by no means exhaustive and readers are invited to add value with their comments.

**FT Guest Columnist**



**By Lloyd Fernando**

1. Conceptualisation – forming a clear picture of the current situation and where one would like the country to reach within a feasible period of time. There must be quantitative targets, employing, as far as possible, key performance indicators.
2. Cohesion – this reflects a clear appreciation of the inter-sectoral and intra-sectoral ramifications of policies and programs. There are symbiotic relationships within and among sectors that must be taken into account in a national planning exercise.
3. Consultation – there must be a clear

understanding among all, at least the principal, stakeholders about the implications of policies and the role each could play in making them effective.

4. Coordination – this follows 3 above. Coordination is an imperative for success, in particular within government.

5. Collaboration – follows 4 above where stakeholders decide to take responsibilities. Collaboration is required not only within Government but also between Government agencies and the private sector.

6. Commitment – very often projects and programs fall off due to lack of commitment on the part of stakeholder Government agencies to implement them. This is often caused by myopic political considerations.

7. Capacity – this refers to the technical and managerial ability of public servants which must be taken into account when formulating projects.

Where such capacity is lacking the projects must contain provision to build the required levels of competence.

8. Correction – even the best technically crafted plans need revision due to vicissitudes of the global economy as well as domestic contingencies.

This is why most countries and Sri Lanka in the past used 'rolling plan techniques'. The five-year Public Investment Program of the National Planning Department was prepared in the past on this basis.

9. Continuation – there is a tendency to abandon plans half way through due to political or administrative changes with severe economic and, often, social consequences. The Greek temple indicates how the objective of development at the top is to be reached through the seven pillars of intra-sectoral and inter-sectoral coordination by applying the 9 Cs, firmly based on the principles and institutions of .... **SEE P12**



### India win 1st ODI by 9 wickets!!! After white wash in Test series

### It is the fault of the management, says Arjuna Ranatunga

(Indianexpress.com) - Former Sri Lankan captain, Arjuna Ranatunga has come down hard on the Sri Lankan team management and slammed them for the dismal show in the recently concluded three match Test series. Ranatunga also went on to criticize the Sri Lankan selection panel and went on to deem them as spineless. Addressing the media, the World Cup

winning captain said, "Sri Lanka cricket is going through the worst period. You can't blame only the players, they are demoralised. It is the fault of the management." and added, "We don't have selectors with a backbone." Ranatunga also raised calls for the sacking of Sri Lanka Cricket chief Thilanga Sumathipala. Earlier, Ranatunga had spoken to the

Hindu and said, "I was very disappointed after the last cricket elections. There are roles in this country, and I was not eligible to contest as the president. Cricket was like a religion to this nation and we don't have that religion now. That is nothing to do with the cricketers. It's all about wrong administration. I am a politician and a cricketer but I still lose because cricket



Arjuna & Sanath

in this country is a mafia run by a business group. However, Sumathipala in a recent interview also came down hard on Ranatunga and said that if Ranatunga wants to criticise the government then he must first resign. "Every time the game is affected at the middle, Sri Lanka cricketers are not performing to the expectation, we hear this kind of noise coming from the same quarter," Sumathipala said. The same man (Ranatunga) is continuously making every effort undemocratically, unethically to hold an office of Sri Lanka Cricket, even when he has been democratically defeated more than once," he added.

### Large crowds receive blessings at Madhu

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### FOC2017

The visitors to the FOC2017 enjoy the entertainment. See P19. Pics by Sisira Maddumage

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